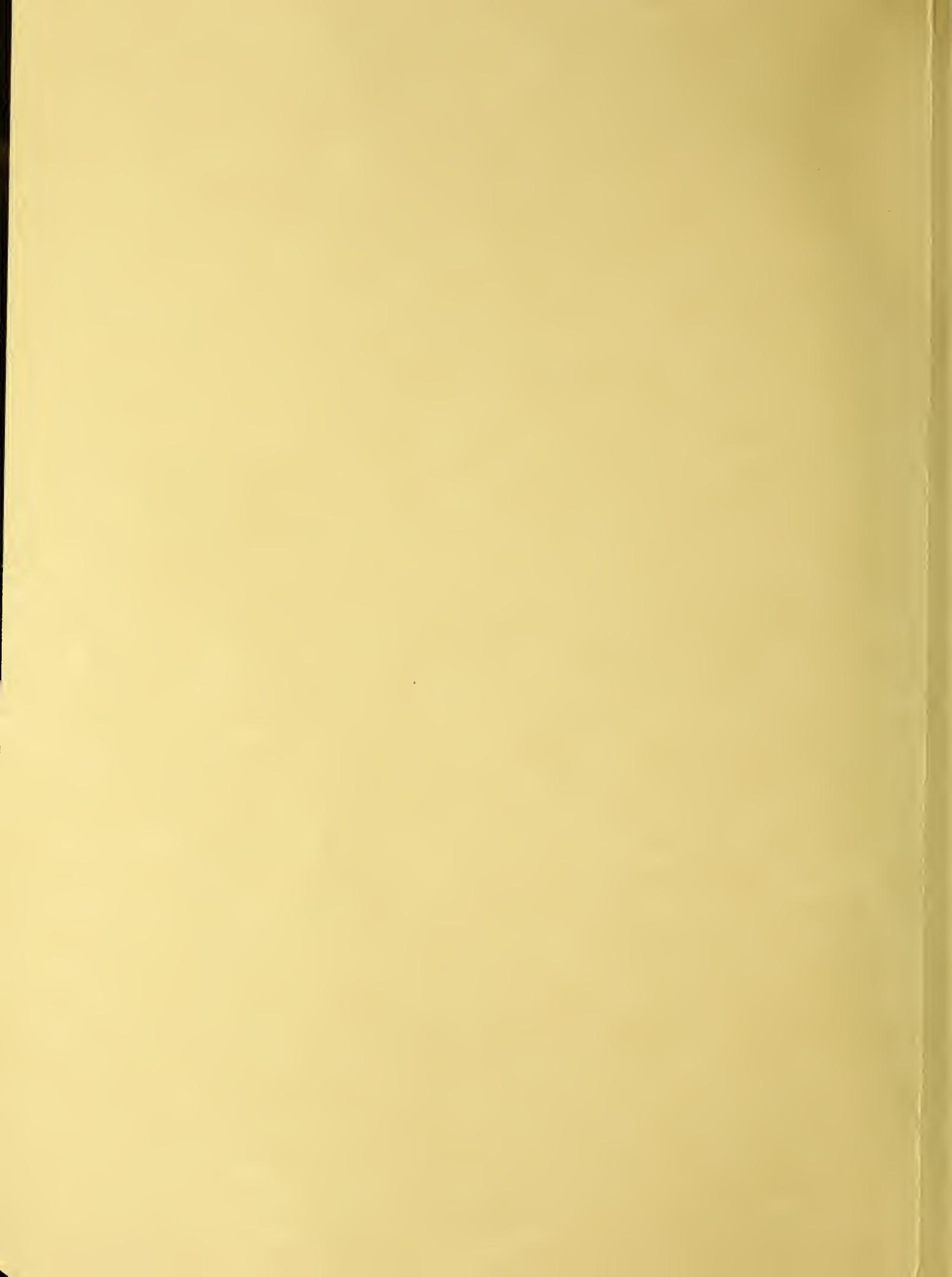


NANCY HANKS
1082

DRAWER 1A

MOTHER NANCY HANKS

71.2007.025.05516



Hanks Family

Nancy Hanks (1)

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

HER GRAVE IS NOW MARKED BY A HANDSOME MONUMENT—A DESCRIPTION OF THE SHAFT.
[Correspondence of the Daily News.]

LINCOLN CITY, Ind., Nov. 28, 1879.—To-day a special train on the Rockport, Cincinnati & South-eastern Railroad brought to this town a monument for the mother of Abraham Lincoln. Her grave is on the old farm of the Lincoln family, and for many years there has been but one person buried there. The monument is a, very nice plain one, of Italian marble, 6 inches thick by 16½ inches broad, and 4 feet high, standing on an Italian base 10 inches high, and that on a sandstone base about 1½ feet high, making the total height about 6½ feet. It is a cottage monument with gothic top. The following is the inscription upon it:

"NANCY HANKS LINCOLN,
Mother of President Lincoln,
DIED OCT. 5, 1818,
AGED 35 YEARS.
Erected by a friend of her martyred son,
1879."

Mr. P. E. Studebaker, of South Bend, Ind., had it built at his own cost. Mr. L. S. Gilkey, Postmaster of Rockport, Ind., superintending the building for Mr. Studebaker. Mr. Albert H. Yates, of Rockport, being the builder. It was put up to-day in the presence of about 100 persons. Among those present were: Gen. James C. Veach, R. T. Kercheval, L. S. Gilkey, A. H. Yates, the builder; R. S. Hicks, of the Rockport *Gazette*; D. Hayford, of the Spencer County *Journal*; and other prominent gentlemen. Mr. W. W. Wells, County Surveyor, was present and surveyed the grounds, and they will be deeded to Spencer County, Ind., under certain conditions, by Mr. Lewis, of Cincinnati, O., the present owner of the greater part of the Lincoln farm. *

The Mother of Lincoln.

In my study of Lincoln, the phenomena of whose existence and the wonder of whose being these few lines try to draw, I have not been able to free him from his mother, Nancy Hanks. Someone gave him his great sense of principle, made falsehood and the other small change of crime stupid made him create within him a self that he could be at peace with, that he could face his neighbors, his town, his state, his country with. Someone passed to this lone child of our harsh, lonely frontier something that on a similar frontier Luther's mother gave to young Martin. That same something Carlyle's mother gave him and Cornelia the Gracchi. In those almost first hours, days, years, Abe got it; the remaining forty-five were simply for growing, developing, maturing. Perhaps her death burned all into his tender, trembling nature. This boy of nine, who fifteen years later spread his coat over the mound that covered one he had dreamed would be his life companion to keep the rain from reaching her, must have had the films of his character all filled and set for life by that mother, that one to whom "he owed all he ever was," as he later said.—Gutzon Borglum in Woman's World.

2. In the biography of President Lincoln, by his law partner, Herndon of Springfield, Ill., it is said that Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother, was the illegitimate daughter of a Virginia planter. Herndon also says that Mr. Lincoln himself attributed the intellectual qualities which distinguished him from all the other members of his family to this unnamed ancestor. Nancy Hanks was married in Kentucky to Thomas Lincoln, the President's father, and the family moved first to Indiana. Later they moved to Illinois when Abe was between 15 and 20 years of age. His mother had died some years before and Thomas Lincoln had married a second wife, who proved a most excellent stepmother and of whom Abe was always fond.

1896

More About Lincoln's Mother.

To the Editor: I would like to comment a little on the letter of Mr. E. C. Brooks in The Register and Leader of March 31, 1912; in which he claims he gives the true version of the family of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. He quotes from a work written by Elizabeth Hanks Hitchcock to prove that Nancy Hanks was descended from a New England or Massachusetts family. There's no truth whatever in this claim; there's not a single line of record to prove this. Not even a tradition. Such a claim borders on the ridiculous. It was started by the Hankses of Massachusetts.

In Lea & Hutchinson's work on "The American Pedigree and Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln," this claim of Elizabeth Hanks Hitchcock was alluded to and utterly ignored. It says: "Concerning the New England ancestry of the Hankses, we feel reluctantly compelled to relinquish the line of Plymouth ancestry of the Hanks family as utterly untenable."

4. 8. 1912
In this historical work of Lea & Hutchinson they confessed their inability to throw any light on the Hanks family as to their origin in America as follows: "In other words, we still lack legal demonstrations of the paternity of Joseph Hanks, husband of Nancy Shipley, and father of Nancy Hanks, the mother of the president."

In all other histories of Abraham Lincoln the same words were used. They utterly failed to record a single line concerning the family up to Joseph Hanks, father of Nancy Hanks.

The writer congratulates himself for being the first man in America who unravelled the mystery of the family of Nancy Hanks. I consulted very closely every scrap of Virginia history from Jamestown to the revolution; I did this, fully knowing that they were an old Virginia family. I was rewarded by locating Thomas Hanks in Gloucester county, Va., in 1673, at the mouth of the York river. This Thomas Hanks was without any doubt, whatever, the great-great-grandfather of Nancy Hanks, mother of President Lincoln. From the arrival of this Thomas Hanks in Virginia to the birth of Nancy Hanks, 111 years had elapsed.

It is not generally known that Abraham Lincoln was married twice. His first wife was Mary Shipley. His second wife was Bethsheba Herring. From the second marriage sprang Thomas Lincoln, father of the president. Dan Ford.

HOW ABRAHAM LINCOLN HELPED MAKE HIS MOTHER'S COFFIN.

1908

The February American Magazine includes a wonderfully interesting account of Abraham Lincoln's boyhood by Dennis Hanks, his cousin and playmate. Hanks, who died a short time ago at nearly a hundred, told the story to Mrs. Eleanor Atkinson of Chicago. Following is Dennis's account of the death of Lincoln's mother:

"Oh Lord, oh Lord, I'll never forget it, the mizry in that cabin in the woods when Nancy died.

"Abe an' me helped Tom make the coffin. He took a log left over from makin' the cabin, an' I helped him whipsaw it into planks an' plane 'em. Ma'n Abe held the planks while Tom bored holes an' put 'em together with pegs Abe 'd whittled. There wasn't sca'cely any nails in the kentry an' little iron, except in knives an' guns an' cookin' pots. Tom's tools was a wonder to the hull deestrict. Pears to me like Tom was always makin' a coffin fur someone. We laid Nancy close to the deer run in the woods. Deer was the only wild critters the women wasn't afeerd of. Abe was some'ers 'round nine years old, but he never got over the miserable way his mother died."

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S MOTHER.—It would be interesting to know more of President Lincoln's mother, and of the influence she undoubtedly had in guiding the mind of the youthful pioneer. But we never shall; nearly all that remains to us of her brief biography is, that she taught her son to read the Bible. Near the village of Gentryville, Spencer County, Indiana, is her grave, a modest grass-covered mound, without headstone or monument. A few weeks before his tragic death, the President expressed his intention, in a letter to a friend, to visit the locality and erect a suitable memorial over the grave. A paper, in commenting on this fact, remarks, "he was not permitted to fulfill his desire." No and yes. He raised no monument of marble to that sacred memory, but his life was a token to her praise such as few mothers in this or any other land have received.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LINCOLN'S MOTHER

The author of a recently completed work entitled "History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850," Mr. James Ford Rhodes, in speaking of Abraham Lincoln, says:

His mother, a natural child of a Virginia planter, was a woman of strong intellect. Believing that he had inherited from her his mental power, it was a favorite theory, perhaps, suggested to him by Shakespeare, that natural children were often abler than those born in wedlock.

Even if the statement regarding Lincoln's mother were true it might well have been omitted in a history that dealt with events rather than with genealogies. But it is not true. Mr. Rhodes shows much research in many matters and cites authorities freely for most of his statements, but he does not cite any for the one quoted. He could not, for there is none. It hardly deserves the name of a vague tradition, and was doubtless originated by Lincoln's political enemies after his nomination for President. It was thoroughly investigated and shown beyond a shadow of doubt to be without any foundation by Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock, who published the result of her investigation in 1899, in a little book entitled "Nancy Hanks: the Story of Abraham Lincoln's Mother." The only excuse for the quoted statement regarding Lincoln's mother is that the volume of the history containing it was published before Mrs. Hitchcock's appeared, but that was no excuse for publishing as a fact a vague, unauthenticated rumor.

Mr. Rhodes could have run the rumor

down and proved its falsity as well as Mrs. Hitchcock did. Her investigation established beyond a doubt by documentary evidence and personal testimony that Nancy Hanks, wife of Thomas and mother of Abraham Lincoln, was the legal and beloved daughter of Joseph Hanks, of Virginia, afterward of Kentucky, who remembered her in his will, which is of record. Mrs. Hitchcock's book was an admirably clear and perfectly conclusive statement of the whole case, including statements from persons who knew Nancy Hanks's family history and who testified to her beautiful character.

The inference of the historian that Abraham Lincoln knew of his mother's illegitimate birth and that he held some fantastic theory on the subject is unsupported by any authentic biography of him. Miss Ida M. Tarbell wrote a preface to Mrs. Hitchcock's book, and she has recently rendered a service to the truth of history by publishing as a newspaper article the preface and a few additional facts from Mrs. Hitchcock's book. She does not throw any new light on the subject, as indeed she could not, for Mrs. Hitchcock's book exhausted it, but she gives the weight of her indorsement to the true story. It is greatly to be regretted that such a statement as that concerning Lincoln's mother should have found a place in a dignified and supposedly truthful history.

Indy News July 23, 1907.

LEFT TO NANCY HANKS—AND GOD

[From the Universalist Leader.]

What would modern educational experts have made of Lincoln if, as a baby, he had been put in their care? They would probably have started him on sterilized milk, clothed him in disinfected garments, sent him to kindergarten where he would have learned to weave straw mats and sing about the "Blue Bird on the Branch." Then the dentist would have straightened his teeth, the oculist would have fitted him with glasses, and in the primary grade he would have been taught by pictures and diagrams the difference between a cow and a pig, and, through Nature study he would have learned that the catbird did not lay kittens. By the time he was eight he would have become a "young gentleman"; at 10 he would know more than the old folks at home; at 12 or 14 he would take up manual training, and within two years make a rolling pin and tie it with a blue ribbon. In the high school at 16, where in four years he would learn that Mars was the reputed son of Juno, and to recite a stanza from "The Lady of the Lake." Then to college, where he would have joined the glee club and a Greek letter fraternity, smoked cigarettes and graduated, and then become a clerk in a banker's office; and never, never do any one any harm! Well—perhaps—we don't know and can't tell what might have been, but we can't help feeling thankful that Lincoln's training and education were left to Nancy Hanks—and God.

Cambria Chronicle 2-15-09

To a Beloved but Mistaken Friend.

Our Palmetto friend the Columbia *State* doubts and invites as follows:

"THE NEW YORK SUN persists in insisting, in furtherance of its eloquent opposition to the literacy test of the immigration law, that such a statute would have barred the father of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, had he been an immigrant.

"THE SUN also insists that NANCY HANKS taught the father of ABRAHAM to write his name, evidently confusing the service rendered ANDREW JOHNSTON [sic] by his wife with imaginary instruction given by the mother of LINCOLN to his father.

"It is, of course, popular to lay all the greatness of a man to his mother, but we would be pleased were THE SUN to show us wherein we err in the firm belief that the father of ABRAHAM LINCOLN was, at least in accordance with the standard of his times, distinctly 'literate.'

That charmed and bland South Carolina air may be a foe of exercises of the body, but if the amiable Columbian had taken the trouble to extend his strong right arm to Volume XVI. of the Encyclopædia Britannica, on page 703 his gerfalcon eye would have seen:

"His father THOMAS [1778-1851] * * * could not read or write before his marriage, in Washington county, Kentucky, * * * to NANCY HANKS."

This is the work of the compiler, and it is wrong to hail Columbia with a secondary authority. A primary one is even less favorable to the literary accomplishments of THOMAS LINCOLN. On page 24 of Volume I. of NICOLAY and HAY'S "Abraham Lincoln" we read of NANCY HANKS LINCOLN:

"She could read and write—a remarkable accomplishment in her circle—and even taught her husband to form the letters of his name."

If born on the other side of the water, THOMAS LINCOLN, and consequently ABRAHAM and his fortunes, would have been kept out under the provisions of such a law as the Burnett bill will be, if it becomes a statute. The illiteracy of THOMAS wouldn't have been allowed to degrade and pollute the pure channels of our enlightened citizenship.

New York Sun,
Feb. 13, 1914.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19.

1921

Funeral of Lincoln's Mother.

F. L. W., Marshfield, Mo.: Abraham Lincoln's mother died when he was about 10 years old. She was a delicate woman, too frail for the rough, hard life of the pioneer. At the time of her death the family lived in Kentucky. An itinerant Baptist preacher named Elkins, who had occasionally preached in their neighborhood, and had shared the rude hospitalities of the Lincoln cabin, was asked by Abraham to come at his first opportunity and preach a funeral sermon. The preacher appointed a day and arrived after a journey on horseback through the wilderness of nearly a hundred miles. Two hundred persons assembled at the Lincoln cabin to hear the backwoods preacher pay a tender tribute to the memory of Mrs. Lincoln.

To Mark Grave of Man Who
Married Lincoln's Parents

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married June 12, 1806, by Rev. Jesse Head in Washington County, Ky. This fact would have been of great comfort to President Lincoln if he had known it. Unfortunately he did not know and but little has been known of this hardy pioneer preacher. His grave and that of his wife, Jane Ramsey, has been discovered in a corner of the cemetery in the old town of Harrodsburg, Ky. Dr. William E. Barton, author of "The Soul of Abraham Lincoln," through whose effort this discovery has been made, proposes that the grave be now marked with a modest stone before the memory forever passes. No elaborate monument is desired, but it is thought that a good many people would gladly give \$1.00 toward such a memorial. Miss Mary A. Stephenson of Harrodsburg, Ky., is treasurer of the fund and will acknowledge subscriptions if an addressed postal card or self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

TRUTH LEARNED ABOUT PARENTS OF ABE LINCOLN

Dr. Barton Tells Telegraph Readers Answer War President Died Without Learning.

PARENTS WERE
WED IN 1806

Illinois Authority on Emancipator Reveals Facts of The Marriage in Kentucky.

Dr. William E. Barton, of Oak Park, Ill., is recognized as the greatest authority on Abraham Lincoln. He has spent much of his life delving into original sources of Lincoln biography. Dr. Barton is the author of several books on the railsplitter president. The two best known are "The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln" and "The Soul of Abraham Lincoln."

By WILLIAM E. BARTON.

Abraham Lincoln lived and died not knowing whether his parents, Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, had ever been legally married.

Those who knew him intimately believed that this haunting uncertainty was one cause of his periodic melancholy, a sadness so deep that when he was in its blank possession, "gloom dripped from his as he walked."

He made some ineffectual attempts to learn the truth, and gave it up; he learned nothing, and his inquiry started ugly rumors.

He thought he could find the record of the marriage of his parents in Hardin County, Kentucky, in which he was born, and at whose county seat, Elizabethtown, his parents were living when his older sister was born. The records showed his father's second marriage, that to Sarah Bush Johnston, but not his first marriage to Nancy Hanks.

Abandoned Search.

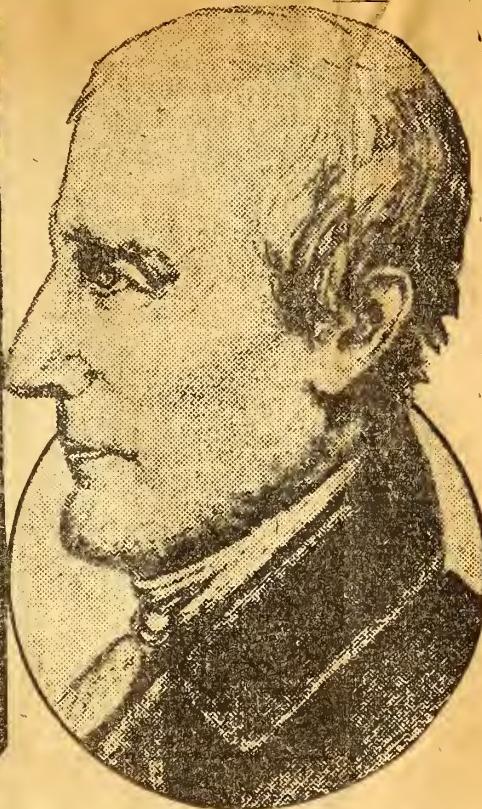
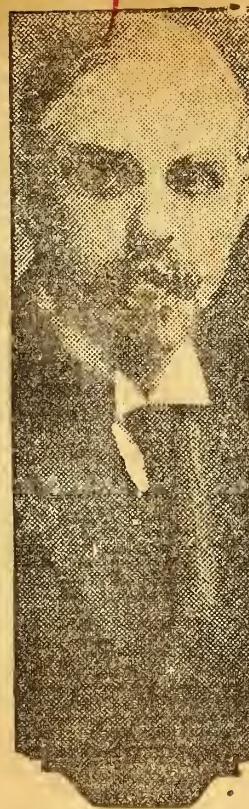
Abraham Lincoln gave up the inquiry, and there was what was called a "significant reserve" in his conversation about his parents.

He believed in them, but he did not know.

It would have cheered his heart could he have known the truth which this story contains.

In 1878, William F. Booker, county clerk of Washington County, Kentucky, found in his records a marriage bond dated June 10, 1806, between Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, and also a return of 16 marriages alleged to have been performed in the years 1806 and 1807 by Rev. Jesse Head, a Methodist minister, including

JESSE HEAD AND DR. BARTON



LEFT: DR. W. E. BARTON, WHO HAS JUST UNCOVERED THE FACTS ABOUT THE MARRIAGE OF LINCOLN'S PARENTS AND, RIGHT, PHOTOGRAPH OF A DRAWING OF JESSE HEAD, WHO MARRIED THEM. THIS DRAWING, THE ONLY ONE KNOWN TO EXIST, IS IN THE DURRETT COLLECTION.

that of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, June 12, 1806.

But who was Jesse Head? Authorities in the Methodist Church could find no record of him, and it was freely charged that this record was a forgery, trumped up to give color of legality to the irregular relations of the parents of Lincoln; that there had been no man named Jesse Head, or if there were such a man, he was not a Methodist preacher.

Facts Discovered.

After a search of years, in which I have been aided by Joseph Polin, county attorney of Washington County; L. S. Pence of Lebanon, Ky., and Miss Mary A. Stephenson of Harrodsburg, Ky., I am able to give the facts in full.

The "Journal of the Western Conference for the years 1800-1811" has recently been published in Nashville, and it shows what is, so far as I know, the only ecclesiastical record of Jesse Head. On Oct. 2, 1805, Bishop Asbury presided at the conference held at Anthony Houston's in Scott County, Kentucky, and Isaac Head was reported as a deacon.

Of the legal status of his authority as a minister, there is this record, discovered by Mr. Pence, in a list of courts-martial of the militia of Washington County from 1791 to 1812:

"May 25, 1798, Jesse Head, returned as delinquent, is cleared off muster roll, he having a license to preach, according to the rules of the sect to which he belongs."

This settles both his legal and ecclesiastical status. To tell how the other information was dug up in many and remote places would be

too long a matter for this story.

Head's History.

But here are the facts about him: Jesse Head's home was on Road Run, now known as Lincoln Run, in Washington County, Kentucky. He was neighbor to the Lincolns and Berrys, and it was probably this fact, and no denominational relationship, that caused him to perform the marriage.

He was a cabinet maker and a justice of the peace.

Year by year Jesse Head turned in his lists of marriages performed, a dozen or more at a time, not by calendar years but in convenient groups.

His last signature on the Washington

ton county records is dated October 10, 1810, when he signed the court order as "justice of the peace". At that time he had given up his home in the village and was living on his farm.

But his name immediately reappears, and that on the records of Harrodsburg, the oldest town in Kentucky. He bought a lot there in March 1810. On October 11, 1811, he was elected to fill a vacancy on the town board. He continued one of the town trustees until 1815 when he resigned, and apparently lived out of town; but he was re-elected in 1819 and again at intervals until 1827. Frequently he presided at the board meetings, and often acted as clerk, many pages of the records being in his handwriting.

Not Regular Preacher.

He seems to have done a good deal of preaching, but never, so far as any records thus far are discovered, as regular pastor. At one time he preached statedly in Lexington, but does not seem to have lived there, unless if was in one of the intervals in which his name disappears from the Harrodsburg records. He had a carpenter shop opposite the courthouse, and was within easy reach of couples coming to secure their marriage licenses.

It is reported that Jesse Head was a strong opponent of slavery. I have not been able to confirm this report. He was an opponent of Henry Clay, and was a good, hard-hitting Democrat. In 1830 he edited a newspaper, called the American. Harrodsburg had a Whig paper called the Union. The two papers were not on good terms.

There exists but one likeness of Jesse Head, a drawing in the Durrett collection, which I have been permitted to photograph. How accurate a likeness it is, I do not know; but it is the best we have.

Head Described.

The only description of his personal appearance of which I know is a jingle which appeared in the opposing newspaper:

"There lives a man in our town
Who walks the streets in a dressing-gown;

His nose is long and his hair is red,
And he goes by the name of Jesse Head."

Jesse Head was a brave man. He had frequent controversies, and was a straight out hitter in argument. One day a man with whom he was on bad

terms stood watching him as he passed toward the courthouse, and after Head had gone by, fired a shot which missed the minister. Head at once turned back, and confronting the man with the smoking pistol said, If you fired that shot to kill me, you are a coward; if you did it to frighten me, you are a fool."

Grave Unmarked.

Jesse Head died March 22, 1842, in his 74th year. He was buried in Harrodsburg. I have just visited Harrodsburg, and the grave of Jesse Head is unmarked.

He died poor. He did not prosper in wordly affairs. When the commissioners were appointed to make an inventory of his estate, they found that all that he had possessed belonged to his son, who had bought it in at sheriff's sale.

This present article builds no monument to Jesse Head, though he deserved one; but it attempts to rescue from oblivion an honored name, and one that stands in intimate association with that of Abraham Lincoln.

(Copyright, 1922, NEA Service.)

Teller, Eve 'Sel. 3. 30. 22

Barton & Sandburg, - reu
July 18, 1925

CONTEMPTIBLE!

Mrs. H. B. writes: Your recent article on Mrs. Jonathan Edwards, in which you speak of Abraham Lincoln's mother, was most contemptible. It is not only assassinating the character of the most wonderful man our country has ever known, and puts you in a class with John Booth, but you put a premium on immorality by your cowardly attack on an innocent dead person. You must be one of the kind of Southerners whose people owned one poor darky, and it beggared you when he was freed.

REPLY

I am sorry that you would condemn a frail woman and her descendants even unto the third and fourth generation.

This is the third attempt I have made to prove that immorality is not inherited.

The facts as to a forbear of Edwards and one of Lincoln did not predestine either of those great men to immorality. Try to emulate the founder of your religion when he forgave Mary Magdalen. As to the facts in the case of Nancy Hanks' mother, I did not make them. Nor did I disclose them. You will find them in both of the popular histories of Lincoln published within a year. I refer to the authoritative "Life of Lincoln," by Barton, and the entertaining and instructive "Life of Lincoln," by Sandburg.

The essential facts are found in official court records.

Yours very truly 7-18-25

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P. L. HARNED, COMMISSIONER
NASHVILLE

DIVISION OF LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

JOHN TROTWOOD MOORE
LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST

August 14, 1926.

Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Zionsville, Indiana.

My dear Sir:

The loom of Nancy Hanks given us by Mr. C.F.Milam, of Guthrie, Ky., has not yet been assembled, waiting for the completion of our new two million dollar Memorial Hall in which our historical archives will be assembled. In addition, Mr. Milam has promised that when ready he would like to do this himself in order that it might be exactly as it was originally. He has given us only a brief statement so I suggest that you write him for a fuller one if desired.

I am glad you have written a book on this subject as it is badly needed to stop the published lies of all the cranks and degenerates who have had that erroneous twist in their heads. Rest assured our library will claim it and do what we can to promote it. In a near issue of the Saturday Evening Post will appear an article of mine on Sam Houston in which I touch this subject concerning Lincoln. I think you will appreciate it.

Sincerely,

John Trotwood Moore
Director

Evansville Int THE Courier-Journal POCKET PERISCOPE

Feb 1 '25 By Thomas James de la Hunt

TO PATRIOTIC MEN, women and children in The Pocket, early February brings perennial reminder of Abraham Lincoln, of what he owed to Indiana and what Indiana owes to him. For authentic information directly bearing upon those plastic years of youth which moulded his character for maturity—even for immortality, it is not too much to say—the outside world is now looking to southwestern Indiana's pioneer environment; and that trenchant phrase "the Lincoln Inquiry," originating in The Pocket, has become during the last half-dozen years a nation-wide interrogatory.

A fine and gracious courtesy was extended to The Pocket in December, 1924, at the sixth annual Indiana History Conference (inaugurated by the "Society of Indiana Pioneers,") when the president of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society was invited to serve as chairman over a highly significant session in the series of meetings; its outstanding feature an address on "Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry," by the Rev. Dr. William E. Barton of Oak Park, Chicago, an authority whose research work on his chosen topic has been stupendous.

The chairman through whom southwestern Indiana was thus recognized by Dr. Christopher Bush Coleman, director of the State Historical Commission, felt himself personally honored in such an opportunity for paying his individual tribute to the distinguished Lincoln biographer. Two years before, to the exact date, it had been his privilege to hear the first delivery of Dr. Barton's scholarly paper on "The Lincoln Family in their Old Kentucky Home," when read before the Filson Club in Louisville. Some months later, an autographed presentation copy in brochure form was a gift from Dr. Barton to the editor of The Pocket Periscope and was reviewed for the pleasure of the column's readers in February, 1924.

Chairmanship over an assembly representing the intellectual elite of Indiana was but the glory of an hour; presidential honors come and go, in a society desiring to avoid the contingency of 'thrid term' complications; but the conductor of a column knows no vacation. Hence, in this third capacity, it becomes possible now to present to readers of The Courier and Journal a few pertinent excerpts from Dr. Barton's Indianapolis address, making choice of some which affect the phase of "Abraham Lincoln's Lost Grandmothers," since this immediately concerns The Pocket, through reference to certain graves in Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park in Spencer county.

Before considering the Hanks family, however, it is worth mentioning here that Dr. Barton has traced the paternal descent of President Lincoln with rather remarkable precision through seven generations of the Lincoln name (with all its variants of spelling), from 1619 to 1809, from pioneer Massachusetts to pioneer Kentucky, from Hingham to Hodgenville. The links of this chain, given in full detail in the Indiana History Bulletin for January, 1925, Vol. II, No. 4, may be thus condensed: Samuel, of Hingham, 1619-1690; Mordecai, of Scituate, 1657-1727; Mordecai, of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, 1668-

1736; John, of Virginia, 1716-1788; Abraham the Kentucky Pioneer, 1744-1786; Thomas, 1778-1851; Abraham the President, 1808-1865.

Abraham, grandfather of the President, had been given a license to marry, in Augusta county, Virginia, June 7, 1770, but unfortunately the bride's name was not of record, a circumstance which led some biographers with greater zeal than discretion to fabricate a wholly mythical Mary Shipley and to have Abraham twice married, one Bathsheba Herring being mother of his offspring.

In 1922, however, Dr. Barton, with the efficient co-operation of Mrs. Jouett Taylor Cannon, secretary of the Kentucky State Historical Society, discovered in the Old Capitol at Frankfort official documents that completely revolutionized all theories previously held concerning the alleged two marriages of the pioneer Abraham. No vestige of proof was found of the existence of a "Mary Shipley," but abundant evidence of Bathsheba (Herring) Lincoln as his wife and widow. "She was the 'Widow Lincoln,' who contributed a gun to fight the Indians who had killed her husband," says Dr. Barton, "who wept above his grave and undertook the care of his five children. She it was whom the grandchildren, both those in Kentucky and those in Illinois, remembered as living to a great age, and whom the latter recalled as 'Granny Basheby.' She has now her proper place in the Lincoln family."

Thus verifying the one 'lost grandmother,' Dr. Barton proceeds in his quest for the other, a task even more interesting, perhaps, and decidedly more involved, since the major portion of what had been written regarding the ancestry of Nancy Hanks is unreliable. "Family traditions concerning her are not based on written records and are confused by reason of overlapping generations and a marked tendency to the duplication of names," is Dr. Barton's verdict.

"The simple question involved is, was Nancy Hanks, the President's mother, the daughter or the granddaughter of Joseph Hanks, who died in Nelson county, Kentucky, in 1793? Abraham Lincoln answered this question without knowing that it was ever to rise. In the campaign biography which he wrote in 1860 for John Locke Scripps, (which is preserved in manuscript in the Library of Congress,) he told of his flatboat journey to New Orleans in 1831, and of John Hanks as one of his associates. He said: 'He is the same John Hanks who now engineers the "rail enterprise" at Decatur, and is a first cousin of Abraham's mother.'

"John Hanks was born at Falls of Rough, in Grayson county, Kentucky, February 9, 1802, and died July 12, 1890. He was the son of William and Elizabeth (Hall) Hanks, and the grandson of Joseph and Nancy Hanks. If the President's mother had been a daughter of Joseph Hanks, she would have been, not John Hanks' first cousin, but his aunt. We have other proof in abundance, but for our present purpose the testimony of Abraham Lincoln will suffice.

"We have discovered one grandmother for Abraham Lincoln and we now have occasion to find another. We are to find the daughter whom Joseph Hanks sorrowfully omitted

from his will, Lucy Hanks, the mother of Nancy, the mother of the President. It is a long story and it has cost great labor, but this is the result:

"Joseph Hanks had eight children whom he named in his will, and in addition had one daughter, Lucy, presumably the oldest, whom he disinherited. Of her waywardness after the removal of the family to Kentucky, we have altogether convincing proof; and of her waywardness in Virginia the proof is the birth of Nancy.

"If this were all, it would be a pitiful story. But it is not all. A good man had faith in Lucy Hanks. Henry Sparrow was born in Mecklenburg county, Virginia, October 9, 1765, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. In his later years he drew a pension, and his date and place of birth and his military service are of record. He migrated to Kentucky with his parents, James Wright Sparrow and Mary Sparrow. His father died May 18, 1789, and his nuncupative will named Henry as his eldest son. Henry assumed the oversight of his younger brothers and his sisters, and the care of his mother. He also made love to Lucy Hanks, and on April 26, 1790, a license was issued for their marriage. A period of probation followed, and Lucy proved true.

"Almost a year later they were married, April 3, 1791, by John Bailey, a well known Baptist preacher. Lucy Hanks was a young woman of no little force of character. Her father, brothers and husband could not write, but she wrote a bold hand with a flourish.

"The two families of Sparrow and Hanks apparently had very little to do with each other until the death of Joseph Hanks, the offended father, but after his death they came together and, on October 17, 1798, Thomas Sparrow, brother of Henry, was licensed to marry Elizabeth Hanks, sister of Lucy. This worthy couple had no children of their own. But they took as their own Nancy, the little daughter of Lucy; and Dennis, the illegitimate son of their sister Nancy, the aunt of the president's mother; and brought them up as their own.

"This couple, the only parents whom the President's mother ever knew and by whose name she was called more frequently than by her own, removed to Indiana to be near her, died of the same disease which carried her away, and are buried beside her within the inclosure at Lincoln City. Fiction writers of the past twenty-five years, posing as sober historians, tell us of Nancy Hanks' adoption by her "kind Uncle Richard Berry" and her "dear Aunt Lucy Berry," but the real people who adopted her are buried with her in Indiana.

"They were a humble couple, but they did their duty faithfully by the mother of President Lincoln. They gave her better educational advantages than they themselves had enjoyed, and brought her up virtuously and religiously. Some modest stone ought to designate their graves and the graves of the other uncle and aunt, Levi and Nancy Hanks Hall, who lie with her in the beautiful little park in Spencer county.

"As for Lucy, the girl with the wayward youth, she lived well after her marriage, as for a year before it. She became the mother of eight additional children and her descendants constitute the largest group of living blood relations of Abraham Lincoln now alive. They are honest, God-fearing people to this day, for they have been true to her teaching. Her eight children she brought up

• NIK

well and two of her sons became ministers of the Gospel.

"The misinformation so diligently broadcast in the past twenty-five years has had this effect, among others, that the people of Indiana would not have known how to mark the four other graves in the inclosure with that of Nancy Hanks Lincoln at Lincoln City. That group of five graves was identified on the testimony of Dennis Hanks who, although he could lie a little when he deemed it necessary, was not as a liar in the same class with most of his detractors.

"Jesse W. Weik of Greencastle, in his recent book, 'The Real Lincoln,' tells the truth about those five graves and should help to clear the confusion of much that has been written about Nancy Hanks and her relations. It would be historically accurate, and in every way fitting, that the State of Indiana should place small stones at the head of the other graves, or affix bronze markers to the railing, informing visitors to the park at Lincoln City that within the inclosure surrounding the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln are the bodies of her two aunts and their husbands; Levi and Nancy Hanks Hall, and Thomas and Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow; the latter couple her foster-parents who were faithful to her, even unto death."

Dennis Hanks, born ten years earlier than President Lincoln, also on the south fork of Nolin creek near Hodgenville, was one of the latest survivors of his generation, living until October 21, 1892, when his death occurred in Paris, Illinois, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Nancy Hanks Hoff, whose mother had been a daughter of Sally (Bush) Johnston Lincoln, the President's stepmother.

A clipping from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, dated October 22, 1892, reports Dennis Hanks' death as resulting from injuries suffered while attending an "Emancipation Day" picnic a few weeks earlier and from which he never rallied. Up to that time the health of the venerable man had been good, the article reports, and he had kept well posted in current events of the day.

"He had a most retentive memory, and nothing gave him more pleasure than to talk of Abraham Lincoln and tell stories of his early boyhood. One in which he took great delight was one in which he saved young Lincoln from drowning. It was in Spencer county, Indiana. Young Lincoln, then but a lad, attempted to cross a swollen stream. He soon got beyond his depth and the rapid current was carrying him down for the last time when Hanks, with almost the strength of a giant, sprang into the stream and rescued from a watery grave the boy who was afterward to figure so prominently in ameliorating and bettering the condition of four million slaves and many millions more of his fellow men."

Dennis Hanks treasured up to his death a silver watch which Lincoln had carried during his early professional struggles in Illinois. This had been a gift to Hanks in 1864 when he went to Washington as intercessor for some of the participants in a riot known as the "Charleston Rebellion," in Coles county, Illinois, an atrocity in which Dr. York, a prominent citizen, had been killed. The case looked hopeless for release of the men imprisoned, and it was only the President's personal affection for Hanks that induced him to intervene after the facts had been laid before him.

TRADUCING THE LINCOLNS

To the Editor of the Public Ledger:

Sir—Having occasion to visit your city, I read with interest your editorial, "Gladstone Cleared," in this morning's issue. It is a stern rebuke, well deserved.

Your closing statement, "It is futile for a pygmy to match a titan," is only a half-truth. Had not Gladstone's son taken this fellow to task and into court, thousands of this generation would have believed that the "Grand Old Man" was all that this traducer charged.

This week's issue of a weekly magazine contains an article reflecting on Abraham Lincoln's mother. * * * This article is woven about an alleged statement of Herndon, never too authentic, and a notation said to be found in an old court docket in Harrodsburg, Ky. The whole story is an outcropping of imagination, glossed over with historical and geographical errors, every paragraph containing probabilities instead of facts, that stamp it as unworthy.

The vice in this is that it comes to be read at a time of the year when that great President takes first page in all newspapers. * * * It is not given to the public until Mr. Lincoln's famous son is dead. There is not, as in Gladstone's case, a son or person with recognized legal interest to come to the defense. * * * The writer of this has spent much time in the region of the early Lincolns and is quite certain the author of the tale dare not go into that country and tell from a public platform what he has written.

FRANK R. AGNEW.

Aspinwall, Pa., February 5, 1927.

Little Stories of Daily Life

good news 3-10-28
For Funeral Expenses.

A teacher in the primary grade in one of the schools of Orleans, Ind., was telling her class of tots the life-story of Abraham Lincoln—about how he was born in a log cabin in Kentucky and came to Indiana to live when he was a small boy. She told them how his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, helped her son learn to read and write before the open fireplace after the day's work was done and how sad the boy was when his dear mother died. She also told them about the plans now being completed to build a beautiful shrine at the mother's grave in southern Indiana and how every little boy and girl in the state, who wished to, could give something to help build that shrine.

That afternoon one little girl of the class ran home to her mother greatly excited.

"O mother," she said, "please give me some money to take to school. Lincoln's mother is dead and they want us kids to help pay the funeral expenses."

ANOTHER NANCY HANKS

The editor was given a letter from Campbell county, Virginia, recently with a request to answer it. The letter stated that in a Presbyterian cemetery in the county was a grave stone marking the resting place of Nancy Hanks and local tradition supports a statement that it is the grave of Abraham Lincoln's mother, but the dates on the stone are not given.

In the reply a quotation was made from the book of Dr. Louis A. Warren, documentary historian of the Lincoln family, that Nancy Hanks came from Virginia with the family of Joseph Hanks and settled in Washington county, Kentucky, about 1786.

There is, however, no question as to the death of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, wife of Thomas Lincoln and mother of Abraham Lincoln, in Spencer county, Ind., October 5, 1818, and her burial in what is now the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Park at Lincoln City.

Furthermore, a national shrine to her memory is to be erected at a cost of about \$1,250,000 and active work on the site will start this year. The plans call for the restoration of the original Lincoln farm; and the buildings are soon to be demolished that are now standing on the property. If there could be any question whatever as to the authenticity of the person or place of burial of the mother of the great President it would have been decided before this project was undertaken.

After the removal of the Lincoln family to Illinois, Abraham Lincoln never visited the grave of his mother but once and that was in 1844 while on a speaking tour during the campaign for the election of Henry Clay to the presidency. On this trip Lincoln spoke at Buffaloville, Rockport and Gentryville.

Graves in Virginia
4-25-29

THE POCOHONTAS TIMES

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlinton, W. Va., as second class matter

CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1929

This paper is undertaken to discuss with you the identity of Lincoln's maternal grandfather. Under ordinary circumstances this might be considered a delicate question, but so much harm has been done by the number of books that have been published on the subject and the scandal that has covered the nation that I am sure that I cannot add to the sorrow of two good women. It is my sincere desire to place them in a better light before a hundred million people everyone of whom is deeply indebted to them for the saver of the nation, Abraham Lincoln. The women I refer to are Lucy Hanks and her daughter Nancy Hanks.

Each passing year adds new luster to the name of Abraham Lincoln. Devoted as I have been to the neglected history of West Virginia, so long at the mercy of the mercenaries among historians, I had not considered Lincoln as a study demanding my attention any further than his actions as a statesman were responsible for the formation of the State of West Virginia and the movements of the Civil War within this State.

Every drop of blood in me is Confederate. I was born since the war but I can remember the days when Lincoln was not revered universally either in the North nor in the South. When in is remembered that his Gettysburg speech, now considered the supreme voicing of thought, was ridiculed and derided by Northern editors, some idea can be obtained of what Lincoln had to endure in his lifetime before the second sober thought of his countrymen set him on the highest place in history ever known in the troubled story of the world.

The Lincolns belonged to Rockingham County, Virginia. That was the county filled with what we call pacifists in this day. It was the breed of Quakers, Mennonites and Dunkards. High class, level headed people who had a clear understanding of the horrors of war where the winner is also a loser. And as for the almighty dollar, they were experts in that game, and money was highly important to them. That was the county that suffered more than any other county in the United States per capita, and while Lincoln was president and commander in chief of the army. My earliest impression then were from men who had suffered from the burning and raiding of the Valley of Virginia, and "Old Abe" was about the best name that they called him. If it had not been for my father who was a historian and a Confederate soldier and who appreciated the greatness of Lincoln long before some of the men of disappointed ambitions in the North, I might have grown up in the belief that the

rest Virginia and I had the opportunity of hearing men discuss for endless hours in conversation the history of the Civil War, I began to see how the existence of the Union depended upon the unfaltering purpose of one man, just as the success of the Revolution was due to the steadfast nature and good judgment of George Washington. I have come to regard Abraham Lincoln as one of the men that the Lord provides from time to time to preserve mankind from destruction through their own mad passions and prejudices.

Perhaps the most engrossing problem ever presented to the psychologist was how Lincoln the wise man and the man without the benefit of even a most primitive school, could have been evolved from the Lincolns and the Hankses, as the sole representative of two prolific families that ever showed any scholastic ability or who ever reached an eminent position upon his own merit. If there ever was a case of a man who burst his birth's invidious bar, it was he.

Ever since I can remember the searchers after truth who delighted in unsavory subjects were divided in two schools, one which advanced the theory that Lincoln was the son of John C. Calhoun, and the other that Lincoln was the half brother of Jefferson Davis. Something like forty years ago I was able to combat both theories for I had found out that if there ever was a pure and virtuous woman on the face of the earth it was Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham Lincoln. Therefore there could not be any truth in those rumors. Never was there a more undeserved case of the fell work of the slyid wing of scandal.

But when it comes to the question of Lucy Hanks, the grandmother, who atoned for what some might consider a mistake of her girlhood, by a long life of good works as a noble Christian woman, the wife of a good man, and the mother of nine children, we have to accept the fact that Nancy Hanks was a base born child, and we have to look to the circumstances surrounding that fact.

There can be little doubt that the Hanks family knew who was the father of Nancy Hanks and there can be no doubt that they regarded it as a secret so profound that it could not be divulged. I believe that Abraham Lincoln knew who his grandfather was and that his lips were tightly sealed. All that he said about it that has been preserved was that his grandfather was a Virginia planter and that he believed that whatever talent that he had was inherited from his unnamed grandfather. This is one of the strongest evidences to me that the gentleman that I am about to name was the grandfather of Abraham Lincoln.

One of Lincoln's great aunts, a sister of Lucy, had a child before marriage by a man by the name of Charles Friend. It did not suit to marry for some reason or other but there was no great concealment for they named the baby Dennis Friend Hanks, and he was adopted along with little Nancy by Elizabeth Spar-

row, aunt to both of them, and brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This was the Dennis Hanks, a front of frende philosopher, who was an earlier counselor of his cousin Abe. This Dennis Hanks took the view that he should purify himself like a gentleman and prove that Nancy Hanks was named Nancy Sparrow and bear in lawful wedlock after Lucy married the other Sparrow. This he failed to accomplish. I suppose that these matters had best not be discussed as a general thing, but when the fate of nations depend upon the vagaries of human beings, there is nothing much we can do but reaffirm our faith and dependence in Providence, and admit that we are helpless and dependent mortals.

A woman said the other day that what was the rightest thing in the world could be the wrongest thing in the world under different circumstances.

Physically Lincoln took after the Lincolns. They were given to tall ungainly forms. One of my earliest recollections was one of the clan that was six feet seven inches tall and thin and raw boned.

Lincoln was a cousin of R. E. Lee. The name of Lee is one of the proudest in Virginia and China. Some of the rest of us decayed aristocrats may whisper around that the Lees are a comparatively modern family, dating back to a mere two hundred years or so, but the Lees sail grandly on nevertheless and number many great and important names on the list. They ought to agree on the spelling however for away back there a distinguished Virginia jurist spelled his name Leigh. It looks like there may have been an ancestor phonetically inclined, like the branch that were apt to spell their name Linkhorn.

Dr. Barton of Foxboro, Massachusetts, has become the most famous of the biographers of Lincoln, though Emil Ludwig is making a pass at the subject at this time and he seems to be a man of parts, capable of felicity in expression and discernment. West Virginia at this great intellectual feast takes the place of the poor man at a frolic. We furnished a tottering democracy with the immortal Nancy and you cannot laugh that off. I have had many kind letters from Dr. Barton lately and he has accepted my help in the spirit in which it was offered. After the home of the Hanks had been found to be in Mineral County, I was able to locate the missing title papers. In that I functioned as an attorney-at-law; rather than a historian. It is a matter of considerable satisfaction to me that the title and survey have passed the critical inspection of David C. Martin. I noticed in Dr. Barton's late book that he has the picture of the ruins

with possible sites of the Hanks home-stead. This to an antiquarian is an anachronism, as the pioneers on the headwaters did not have cellars in 1784.

I feel that the best evidence of the identity of the mysterious grandfather is to be gathered from Lincoln's talk with his law partner, Wil-

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on said:

"It was about 1850, when he and I were driving in his one horse buggy to the court in Menard County, Illinois, . . . he spoke, for the first time in my hearing, of his mother, dwelling on her characteristics, and mentioning or enumerating what qualities, he inherited from her. He said, among other things, that she was the legitimate daughter of Lucy Hanks and a well bred Virginia Farmer or planter; and he argued that from this last source came his power of analysis, his mental activity, his ambition, and all the qualities that distinguished him from the other members and descendants of the Hanks family . . . The revelation—painful as it was—called up the recollection of his mother, and as the buggy jolted over the road, he added ruefully, 'God bless my mother; all that I am or ever hope to be I owe to her.'"

In the Virginias the word planter is never used to describe a farmer in the Valley or in the Mountains. It is confined to the tobacco and cotton regions and that is what was meant in this case. It is apparent that Lincoln knew who the grandfather was and that there was a powerful reason for not disclosing the name. It would have been fatal to his political life. It would have invoked a storm of ridicule. Lincoln up to the hour of his death was subjected to abuse and adverse criticism. Kind words were few and far between.

Joseph Hanks was a native of Richmond county a county in the Northern Neck where it narrows down to the few miles that separate the tidal rivers, the Potomac and the Rappahannock. The space here is taken up largely by Richmond County and Westmoreland County, and this spot has been the birthplace of many eminent men, among them being Washington, Monroe, the Lees, and other prominent personages.

Hanks signed by mark. He married Ann Lee. He was in the Fairfax grant and decided to go to the extreme western part of the Fairfax lands. This was about 1782, as fixed by Barton, from certain records that he examined in Richmond County. The way at that time lay by Alexandria by Leesburg through Snickers

Gap of the Blue Ridge, and by Winchester, and Romney, to Patterson Creek.

Fairfax had set aside as manor lands 9000 acres of the bottoms along Patterson Creek but there was good land to be taken up outside the reservation.

When he moved he had nine children, five boys and four girls and all must have been with him as they were listed in the census of 1782 as living in Hampshire County.

Reaching back towards the Allegheny Front was Mikes Run a stream about ten miles long. In this neighborhood, Hanks saw George Terry who had settled there. He looked at a choice spot in a hollow in the hills on the head drains of Mikes Run which Peter Hartman had bought of Fairfax in 1781. Hartman had gone back to Washington County, Maryland, beyond the danger of Indian raids and had left George Terry a title bond for the tract. It was 216 acres and just filled the little hollow. It had limestones to insure its fertility. There were sugar trees. Good springs shelter from the storms. Protection from the Indians. It had even a good deer lick. Terry agreed with Hanks that the latter should have the northern end. The tract was something over a mile long and about a third of a mile broad and lay parallel with the mountain ranges. Hanks built his home here. Barton says that Hanks may have come in the latter part of the year 1782. That is not at all probable. Whoever heard of a settler like Hanks who had no money coming to the mountains in the fall of the year. It would be as unnatural as for geese to fly north at that time. It was absolutely necessary to raise enough corn to see the family through the winter. And when it is proven that Hanks wintered there with nine children, we know full well that he raised a patch of corn by hand the summer of 1782.

He must have been there two years. From the spring of 1782 to the spring of 1784. He had improved the land by clearing and building a house of one room which had no floor, no window, and not much of a chimney.

Hanks was a good citizen and a typical pioneer no doubt. There was a strong religious streak in the breed. I like to quote that verse about the pioneer families and how they trained their youths: "He raised them rough, but he raised them well, when their feet took hold of the paths of hell, he filled them full of the wrath of God, and tanned their hides with an old ramrod."

To this household came trouble and disaster. Their fine daughter, Lucy, unmarried, was found to be pregnant. That put the household on the move. Hanks was poor. He managed to

raise a hundred dollars from a money lender by giving a lien on his land. It does not state that this was gold. Anything but that. And considering the state of the national and state currency it must have been a pitiful sum. Hardly enough to flag a bread wagon in this day and time. But on it the family turned their faces to the setting sun and their

year from the Atlantic coast to the western part of Kentucky. And there is an hiatus in his record from 1784 to 1787. It would be well for search to be made in the records of Monongalia and Ohio counties, West Virginia, and the original counties of the Virginia part of Pennsylvania, for it is more than likely that the Hanks raised corn for a season or two on the waters of the Monongahela. The year 1784, was a specially dangerous year for immigrants to float down the Ohio, and I hardly think it possible that they got through the Indian lines that year.

Hanks died in Kentucky nine years after leaving Mikes Run a rich and substantial farmer. He mentions every child he has in the will and leaves each something, except no mention is made of his daughter Lucy. Conjecture is that Lucy has been well provided for in worldly goods. Conjecture is that Hanks has prospered exceedingly in the lean years between 1784 and 1793. What is the explanation? The Virginia planter.

In Kentucky Lucy has a few more troubled years but by 1790, she has agreed to marry Henry Sparrow and she writes a letter to the clerk saying that she is of age and for him to issue a Lisons for her and Henry Sparrow. Lucy had one error marked against her in a way on November 24, 1790, when a grandjury of 12 returned an indictment against her for fornication. Scribes and Pharisees! Henry Sparrow comes into court and executes a marriage bond that he will marry Lucy and the fornication case is thrown out of court. Lincoln's mother died when he was a small boy but his grandmother Lucy lived until Lincoln was a man grown, and Lincoln was a serious, deep, and discerning man. Does anyone believe that he did not know who his grandfather was?

The clue we have is that Lucy Hanks was betrayed in the year 1783, in Hampshire county. The question naturally arises from the known facts whether there was any Virginia planter running loose in that county during the summer of 1783? It appears that there was. That he was rich, and powerful, of an amazing personal perfection, in the dangerous fifties, devoted to hunting and to woods life, and who had been born and raised with Joseph Hanks, Hanks being about seven years older than the planter. History places this planter in that Eastern Panhandle the summer of 1783. In fact he had a summer home there. That particular year he was the employer of and the financial backer of a man who was trying to build a boat that would float up stream without sails or oars.

That is the fatal opportunity. The summer of the next year we can imagine that same planter coming back to his summer home and finding a deserted cabin in the woods and the Hanks family in exile. The neighbors tell him perhaps that Lucy had been ruined and the family to hide their shame have gone to Kentucky. Then the planter gets up an expedition to Kentucky under

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the plea of looking after his real estate holdings on the Ohio river. History says that after getting to the navigable waters of the Ohio, he finds the Indians are up and that it would not be safe to descend the river in a boat. He spends some weeks around the headwaters of the Monongahela River and returns. One night he sits under a tree all night in the rain.

The Joseph Hanks family in its migration travelled from the coast to near the Mississippi River. They went from the banks of the Rappahannock to the headwaters of the Potomac and from there to Rough Creek or Rough River as it is now called a branch of the Green River in Kentucky. The planter had lands in each of the regions. It is significant that the only land that he owned in Kentucky was in the pennyroyal on Rough Creek where he had seven thousand acres.

Breed is stronger than pasture. No proof has been adduced that would be accepted after a plea in bar. But still it seems to me that we know the man. We sense it as it were. Perhaps I had better not be more definite concerning a man who was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.

God moves in a mysterious way and the people of the United States should never cease to be grateful for George Washington, Nancey Hanks, and Abraham Lincoln. And the time will come when Nancey Hanks will rank in fame with Miriam and Joan of Are.

THE POCOHONTAS TIMES

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlinton, W. Va., as second class matter.

CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1929

Last week when I went back to Dolls Gap, it was with some trepidation, for I had raved about that calm and safe retreat from first impressions, and a hasty visit there on a hot summer day, and I feared that it might look on a second trip just like any other glen. But it measured up to my former description. It is no wonder that a family which settled there 142 years ago have not moved from this magic valley.

That part of West Virginia has had the greatest drought in the memory of man but the springs in Dolls Gap are as bold and clear and cold as if the season had been normal, and it has had the most conclusive test that it can be subjected to in that regard.

The old timers speak of a tradition of a dry summer something like a hundred years ago in the Antioch neighborhood. I am speaking of Antioch, Mineral County, the postoffice name for Dolls Gap and other coves and valleys in that part of Knobley Mountain. They tell of a whimsical character who farmed a field for the Widow Mott on the shares, and at the end of the season he declared that his corn was so poor that he would have to buy corn to pay the Widow Mott her thirds.

Some of us feel like we discovered this gap. We started in to call it Mikes Gap but the public has a way of furnishing its own names and the name of Dolls Gap has been fastened on it and that is what it will be to the end of time. From Main to California and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and in fact wherever the English speech has spread, and wherever the flag flies free, the name of Dolls Gap has become familiar. As the modern version is America has become conscious of Dolls Gap. The lord of the manor is Joseph W. Doll, a tall straight old man, who will be eighty years old on the first day of next January, and who is hale and hearty. He wears a white chin beard, and is a perfect picture of a pioneer, a venerable man who has come down from a former generation. There are a number of ways that a man's name can be spread all over the country. Unfortunately in some cases a bad eminence is attained. But in this case it is a pleasing thing to think that this able farmer has been introduced to the nation in an acceptable manner. A man who has been steadfast and true. A man who has raised his family and raised them well. A man whose credit is good. A splendid citizen and a good man.

The reason for all this hurrah is that it was in the shelter of these hills that the mother of Abraham Lincoln was born. It seems that in America, at least, that the busy man's mind has room for a very few lasting heroes. We took our proclamations seriously that all men are born equal with equal rights. A great

friends and admirers, but so far there have been but two universal heroes in America, and those are George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. They have become fixed in the affections of the people. The overdriven laboring man knows about them and the greatest scholars and analysts come to the conclusion that each of those in his time upheld the nation on his shoulders, and that each stood single and alone in the furtherance of his policy to perpetuate the Union.

It is a matter of comfort to us who struggle to rescue names, acts, and deeds from oblivion, and to reverse the proud silence of former generations, that in this instance, whether the nation or the state does anything or not to beautify and improve Dolls Gap, that the everlasting hills have ringed it about so that it will always be a shrine to those who feel the need of honoring the memory of Abraham Lincoln and his mother in an affirmative manner. There they can go and such a pilgrimage stimulates the memory of all who know about the journey. This summer many such pilgrims have appeared from day to day, and on Sunday, September 22, 1929, the Hole in the Wall, by which the place is reached by a smooth well gravelled passway was taxed beyond its powers to let the cars go through. It is a one way road with a lovely stream tinkling down by it and walled in by bold cliffs.

When I was there in the summer and talked to J. W. Doll and his two sons and examined the boundaries and the monuments marking the corners of the tract of land, they were not able to give Mr. David G. Martin, the surveyor and myself, any definite information about the relative ages of the different fields and the several houses that had succumbed to the gnawing tooth of time during the past 145 years. A man of J. W. Doll's age, (80) thinks slowly but wisely and well. And after the matter had been discussed gravely with other ancient men of the vicinity, he was able by a line of reasoning and recollection to place the exact spot that the original Hanks home was built.

His grandfather, Jacob Doll the second told him that the logs in a certain building were from the old original house and that it stood on the farm where is the house painted red, where George Doll now lives and that was the site of the Hanks home. He has a recollection that his grandfather told him that the house was torn down to obtain the timber to build an outhouse or addition to the Doll house and that the timbers had been 34 feet long and that he had reduced these timbers to 27 feet. This building was a few feet down the hill from the original building and it is remembered by J. W. Doll and other aged men of the vicinity. What makes it conclusive to me is that it was located by the spring, the finest spring in all that country, and there was no other place to build the house so fitting. At the big bold run fed by larger streams and which once turned the wheel of a grist mill, the ground is rough, and it is much nearer the deer lick. It stands to

small children, would not spoil his deer lick by putting a house too close to it. Then too the place now fixed beyond reasonable doubt as the home of Jacob Hanks was near the center of the 108 acres and on the best farming land on the tract. The cabin was thirty-four feet long and large enough to shelter a family of eleven in the manner of a pioneer.

Another thing that adds to the weight of the evidence is that the old trail that topped New Creek Mountain that bold barrier to the west came through Dolls Gap as the notch in that mountain is designated on the maps and angled down by the place of the spring.

It adds to the interest of Dolls Gap to know that Washington passed through it and by the Hanks home on the 27th day of September, 1784. The night before Washington spent at the home of Thomas Logston, who lived at the mouth of Stony River, where it empties into the North Fork of the Potomac, where both Grant and Mineral counties corner on the line of Garrett county, in the State of Maryland. At the house that night was the son of Thomas Logston, the famous Indian fighter Joseph Logston. He was known as Big Joe Logston, the most powerful man on the frontier. He moved to Kentucky in the year 1790, from the North Branch and took part in some stirring fights with the Indians. Joe Logston told Washington that the place to cross the mountains with a canal was to go up Dunlaps Creek, which enters the waters of the James river by way of its junction with Jackson River at Covington, Virginia, and across to the waters of the Greenbrier River and down the New River and the Great Kanawha. And when he said this he done spoke a parable for fifty years after that the most stupendous enterprise ever undertaken in Virginia was preparing to do that very thing, that is to build a canal across the place that Joe Logston mentioned to Washington.

Washington set out on the morning of the 27th about daybreak to reach Romney that day. But after he had traveled twelve miles toward Romney he arrived at the foot of the Allegheny front and there after a discussion he resolved to take the path that there forked off to go to his friend Abram Hite, who lived on the old Indian fields in Hardy County just about the place that A. R. McNeill's tourist camp is located on the South Branch River.

To those familiar with the country and the passes of New Creek Mountain and Patterson Creek Mountain by old trails, it is not hard to follow the line indicated by Washington in his diary.

"27th. I left Mr. Logston's a little after daybreak. Four miles through a bad road occasioned by stone. I crossed Stony River, which, as hath before been observed, appears larger than the North Branch. At ten miles I had by an imperceptible rise gained the summit of the Allegheny Mountain and began to descend it where it is very steep and bad to the waters of Patterson Creek, which embraces those of New Creek.

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bearing same name. On the top of which at one Snail's, I dined. I came to Col. Abraham Hite's at Fort Pleasant on the South Branch about 35 miles from Logston's a little before the sun's setting. My intention, when I set out from Logston's, was to take the road to Romney, by one Parker's, but learning from my guide Joseph Logston, when I came to the parting paths at the foot of the Allegheny (about 12 miles) that it was very little farther to go by Fort Pleasant, I resolved to take that, as it might be more in my power on that part of the branch to get information of the extent of its navigation than I should be able to do at Romney."

The weather is recorded as rainy and the woods were hard to ride through. If the Hanks family had not moved, then Washington passed by the door of their cabin in Dolls Gap and may have seen the seventeen year old mother nursing little Nancy Hanks on her lap.

When the Earth was sick, and the skies were grey, and the woods were rotted with rain, the great man rode through the autumn day to visit his love again.

That quotation came to mind as I was writing down the excerpt from the famous diary of Washington of the trip he made in 1784 in September to find out if he could build a canal across the mountains. At that time he was a member of a Potomac navigation company. On the day before he reached Logston's the 26th, he rode on the Seneca Trail which he called McCullough's Path and which ran west of the Allegheny Mountain. On the night of the 25th he camped in Yohogheny Glades. The next day he crossed the Yohogheny River and a mile east he came to the camp of Charles Friend a hunter. They got boiled corn for the party but nothing for the horses. That afternoon they crossed Backbone Mountain and descended into Ryans Glades and came to the North Branch of the Potomac at McCullough's Path. This point is somewhere near Gormanian. They followed down the North Branch as the Western Maryland Railroad does now four miles until they reached Logston's at the mouth of Stony River, a little distance north of the town and railroad station of Schell, a

postoffice in Mineral County.

That Charles Friend was the guide guardian and intimate friend of the Joseph Hanks family and was with them in Kentucky. His son Jesse Friend married Polly Hanks, a daughter of Joseph Hanks. And Charles Friend himself was the father of Dennis Hanks by one of the Hanks girls.

A few years after this time Charles Friend, the Hanks family, and Joe Logston are all domiciled in Kentucky.

This is a digression having something to do with poor Lucy's terrible romance which took fifty years of behaviour to live down

Dolls Gap was brown with the drought. Not much fall pasture. The corn was cut. The livestock had been penned up in corrals so that all the gates could be thrown open. When an automobile coughed and gave up a mile of cars were blocked but many hands lifted the machines to one side and the procession moved on. There was a raw east wind. A platform was built on the west side of the esker and the crowd gathered in a natural amphitheater. The people covered the ridge from top to bottom and Dr. Barton felt the inspiration of the moment. The New England crust was broken through and his words were as fervid as the best style of Southern oratory. It was a great speech.

Dr. Barton is a hale man of about seventy years ago. He served forty years in the ministry as a Congregationalist. That is a name for the Independents of Cromwell's time, resulting from a split in the Presbyterian church. Pertains to New England in America. Later being recognized as an historian and writer he has become a world wide notable and he is in great demand as a writer speaker, and university visitor.

He has a keen mind, a judicial temperament, and no one is able to sell him any gold bricks.

The Nancy Hanks Commission under Joint Resolution, number 13 of the Legislature, having carefully considered the evidence adduced by Dr. Barton and the local records of the several counties, made a report that Abraham Lincoln's mother was born on the Doll farm, in Mineral County, in 1783 or 1784, and recommended that the State of West Virginia acquire the land as a state park. This does not mean that the Dolls will have to move if the State acts or Congress takes a hand. Their presence there would be an advantage to the plan.

The present year has seen the opening of the Northwestern Turnpike from east to west by the improvement of the road in the State of Maryland. The tourist crosses a narrow neck of land in Maryland very much as Washington did when he was riding through that country building canals and calling on friends and so forth. The present season saw an enormous increase in tourists and the road is full of cars night and day. The Dolls Gap attraction makes a very pleasant side trip by a good county road. From the great highway it is eight miles and it is well

the historic importance of the spot. As time goes on the place will increase in fame and it will be a Mecca for pilgrims devoted to culture and patriotism from all over this broad land of ours.

The historians were treated royally in the counties on the Eastern Waters. First meeting at Old Fields near Moorefield in Hardy County. This was the site of Point Pleasant and near the Battle of the Trough, one of the most dreadful battles of the French and Indian War, in 1756. The commission made its report and its recommendations in the presence of a steel engraving of Robert E. Lee, a cousin of Abraham Lincoln. Old Fields was also the site of decisive battle of the Civil War, where the Confederate army under McCausland which had burned Chambersburg were overtaken by Averell and his army and routed. There was nothing

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but peace there that day. The only jarring note was the red ribbon on the tail on one of the eight farm mules, an intimation of danger.

In the afternoon a visit to Romney with its historic court house. There I got a copy of the deed by which a man who had returned from the dead conveyed and quit claimed his wife to his friend who had married her. Greater love hath no man than this that he relinquish his wife for his friend.

At Keyser a banquet was given in honor of the event by the citizens of that city.

Sunday morning Dr. Barton preached at the Methodist church, but I went out to visit at David G. Martin's hospitable home at Antioch, and got such a dinner as occurs but a few times in a man's life. After all there is nothing in the arts and sciences that exceeds a good meal.

Then in the afternoon the big meeting at the Doll House.

My visit to Knobley Mountain have been hasty ones but I find that there is a rich history and tradition there and they have their own classics.

In the days of yore when the courts were holding that a man had a constitutional right to take a drink, a farmer suspicioned that his wife was drinking some of his liquor, so he swung his keg of apple brandy to the ridge-pole of his barn. The lady finding it there took the mountain rifle and drilled a hole in the keg and salvaged the contents in buckets.

Another circumstance occurred during the Civil War. A deserting soldier appeared on a lonely farm where an aged man was working and demanded money. The robber drove the farmer at the point of a pistol to the house to get the savings. The old man opened a bureau drawer as if to get the money, and when he turned he had a revolver with which he shot the deserter dead. They rolled his body in a blanket and buried it in the family grave yard. It was a similar case to the Creigh incident in Greenbrier County, only no one thought of executing a man for resisting a robber.

Here is the quit claim deed: Deed Book 3 page 171, Hampshire County:

To all to whom these presents shall come or may concern, whereas, my wife Barbara, formerly Barbara Decker, hath sometime left me and hath intermarried with James Colvin I do therefore hereby certify that I do freely acquit and discharge the said James and Barbara from all trouble or damages by means of their intermarriage and do consent that they may dwell and cohabit together as husband and wife for the future without any intervention from me.

Given under my hand and seal this 19th day of February, 1773.

Jacob Kuykendall, (Seal)

Teste: Gabriel Jones

Gabriel Jones, clerk, famous lawyer, noted card player. Originator of the expression "last button on Gabriel's coat," meaning all is on the hazard.

While the deed appears to be voluntary, tradition is that the consideration was one rifled gun.

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LINCOLN LORE

No. 28

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 21, 1929

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the

LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - Editor

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NANCY HANKS' BIRTH- PLACE

Hon. William G. Conley, governor of West Virginia, recently appointed a commission to determine the birthplace of Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln. Those chosen to make the investigation and report their findings to the legislature are Mrs. A. A. Pickering, Rowlesburg; Andrew Price, Marlinton; W. H. Barber, Keyser; Phil Conley, Charleston; and John M. Crawford, Parkersburg.

Due to the fact that the conclusions of this commission must involve some questions far more important than merely locating the probable site of Nancy Hanks' nativity, the decision to which they shall finally come is of vital interest to all Lincoln students. The chairman of the commission, Mr. Andrew Price, who is also president of the West Virginia Historical Society, has contributed his personal views on the subject, which appeared in *The Pocahontas Times*, of Marlinton, August 29, 1929. Some of his conclusions are as follows:

1. Nancy Hanks' father was George Washington.

2. Her mother was Lucy Hanks.

3. Her mother's parents were Joseph and Ann Lee Hanks.

4. She was born in the cabin of Joseph Hanks situated on Mikes Run in what is now Mineral County, West Virginia.

5. The date of her birth was sometime between the spring of 1782 and the spring of 1784.

There are but two statements over the signature of Abraham Lincoln which speak of his mother's origin or family connections. An alleged conversation between Herndon and Lincoln in 1850, touching on this subject, but not mentioned or recorded until after Lincoln's death, fifteen years later, cannot be considered an authoritative source.

Lincoln's Autobiographical Sketches

"He (Thomas Lincoln) married Nancy Hanks—mother of the present subject—in the year 1806. She also was born in Virginia; and relatives of her's of the name of Hanks, and of other names, now reside in Coles, in Macon and in Adams counties, Illinois, and also in Iowa. . . . He is the son of John Hanks who now engineers the 'Enterprise' at Decatur, and is a son to Abraham's mother." Why prepared for Scripps

"My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say." Sketch prepared for Fell, in 1859.

It is the purpose of this broadside to present for the consideration of the commission some duly authorized public records which seem to be directly associated with the task before them. In attacking this problem it would seem wise to set aside, for the present at least, the great mass of conflicting traditions which bear upon this question. The only logical and safe approach should be made through duly authorized public records which speak with authority.

We are fortunate to find available documents which affirm the statement which Lincoln had made about the marriage of his parents, although he did not know such records existed. Jesse Head, the officiating clergyman, certified that on June 12, 1806, he joined together in the Holy estate of "Matrimony" Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Two days before this wedding the following marriage bond had been filed:

Lincoln-Hanks Marriage Bond

"Know all men by these presents that we, Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry are held and firmly bound. . . . sealed with our seals and dated this 10th day of June 1806. The conditions of the above obligation is such that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended between the above named Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, for which a license has been issued. . . ."

Thomas Lincoln (Seal)
Richard Berry (Seal)
gardin

Witness John H. Parrott
Washington County (Ky.) Court

An early Kentucky statute which required that a marriage license could only issue from the clerk of the county "where the female usually resides," should assure us that Washington county was the home of Lincoln's mother.

The most significant fact which this bond reveals is that a guardian signed the paper for Nancy Hanks as her representative. This allows us to conclude that she had not reached the age of twenty-one at the time the bond was issued. Her birth date, therefore, must have been later than June 10, 1785.

Richard Berry, who had qualified as guardian of Nancy Hanks, was apparently her "next of kin." The procedure in appointing a guardian in Kentucky was as follows: "The court shall pay proper attention to the following order of precedence in right, and not depart therefrom unless it deems that prudence and interest of the infant so require: First, the father. Secondly, the mother, if unmarried. Thirdly, the next of kin, giving preference to males."

The fact that Nancy Hanks had a named guardian at the time of her marriage should allow one to make certain deductions. The most likely

conclusion to draw would be that one of her parents was dead. If this were so, it is very evident that since her father was not named as her guardian it was he who had passed away. A further deduction is also possible; if the mother still survived, she had married again, which made her ineligible for the guardianship. This would involve the search for some record bearing the name of a Hanks woman who would answer the necessary requirements, chronologically, geographically, and socially. What are known as the Lucey Hanks marriage papers in Mercer county seem to comply with all these needs.

On April 30, 1790, John Bailey, a Baptist preacher, endorsed a marriage certificate made out to Henry Sparrow and Lucey Hanks stating that they had been "joined in matrimony", by him on the above date. Four days previous to this wedding the certificate had been issued by the clerk of Mercer county, and on the same day a marriage bond had been signed by Henry Sparrow and John Daniel, his brother-in-law. John Daniel also signed a certificate that Lucey Hanks was of age. On November 24, 1789, five months before her marriage, a Mercer county Grand Jury made the following presentation: "Lucey Hanks for Fornication." She was never brought to trial on this indictment, and, after her marriage to Henry Sparrow, the case was dismissed.

The most important of the Lucey Hanks papers is herewith presented verbatim:

Lucey Hanks Certificate

"I do Sertify that I am of age and give my apprebaton freely for henry Sparrow to git out Lisons this or enny other day given under my hand this day Apriel 26th 1790."

Test (wi)doy
Robert Lucey
michel Hanks
John berry

Mercer County (Ky.) Court

This certificate reveals that Lucey Hanks was over twenty-one years of age at the time of her marriage to Sparrow. Since no Hanks name appears as a witness or bondsman on any of the marriage documents, it is not likely that she was then associated with any Hanks family. The two men who served as witnesses to the above certificate were closely related to Richard Berry, the guardian of Nancy Hanks. John Berry was a brother of Richard and when he made his will in 1795 he named Richard Berry and Robert Mitchell the executors of his estate. The relation of Lucey Hanks to the Berry and Mitchell families is not made clear in these records, but her close association with them is evident. If we were positive about the maiden name of Lucey Hanks her contact with the Berry family and the guardianship of Nancy might be clarified.

There is one word in this certificate which satisfies me, that when Lucey (Continued to No. 29)

LINCOLN LORE

No. 29

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 28, 1929

Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the
LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - Editor

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(Continued from No. 28)

Hanks signed her name she signed it, "Widoy" Lucey Hanks. Just before the letters "doy" at the beginning of her signature, and apparently connected with these three letters, are tracings which appear to me to be the letters "wi." The pronunciation of the word in pioneer days would account for the use of the final "y" in the spelling. The writer is aware of the fact that there are those who do not accept his interpretation of this signature, and while there is no question in his own mind as to what Lucey Hanks wrote, the dimness of the two important letters prevents a positive affirmation which cannot be challenged. Here in the county adjacent to the community where Nancy Hanks lived, we have found a woman whom I believe to have been the widow of a Mr. Hanks, the father of Nancy.

One other Kentucky document should be exhibited here as bearing upon the identity of the Hanks family, to which Lincoln's mother was related:

Joseph Hanks' Will

"In the name of God Amen. I Joseph Hanks, of Nelson County, State of Kentucky, being of sound mind and memory. . . . I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas. . . . my son Joshua. . . . my son William. . . . my son Charles. . . . my son Joseph one horse called Bald also the land whereon I now live. . . . my daughter Elizabeth. . . . my daughter Polly. . . . my daughter Nancy. . . . I give and bequeath unto my wife Nanny all and singular my whole estate during her life afterward to be equally divided between all my children. . . . Signed sealed and delivered in presence of us this eighth day of January one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three."

his
Joseph X Hanks
mark

Witnesses, Isaac Lansdale, John Davis, Peter Atherton.

The above will was entered for probate in Nelson County on May 14, 1793, five months after it was signed. Since William Hanks, named in this will, was the father of John Hanks, whom Lincoln claimed was first cousin of his mother, it is desirable to show some contact between the Joseph Hanks who signed the will, and the Lucey Hanks who married Henry S. in 1790. If the integrity of the will is to be conserved and the

marriage papers of Lucey Hanks properly appraised, but one deduction can be made which would not violate the evidence of these records and still allow the cousin relationship of John Hanks and the president's mother to be maintained. Lucey must have been a daughter-in-law of Joseph, her husband having died at least four years before Joseph made his will.

One other supposition has been set forth to show the relationship between Joseph Hanks and Lucey Hanks. It is based on the assumption that Nancy Hanks was the unnatural child of Lucey Hanks and took her mother's name. There is no documentary support for this supposition. It further assumes that Lucey Hanks was a daughter of Joseph Hanks. Her name does not appear in the will in which Joseph names his living children and specifies that after the death of his wife the estate "be equally divided between all my children." A further assumption, based on the alleged illegitimacy of Nancy and some later irregularities of Lucey holds that Joseph Hanks cut her off in his will. At the time Joseph Hanks made his will Lucey had been happily married to Henry Sparrow for two and one-half years. Joseph lived for five months after the will was made and by this time at least two of Lucey's eight children were born. If Joseph Hanks' anger towards a daughter, who had been living an honorable married life for three years, was so intense that he did not care to have her share in his estate, he would have been more cautious in the wording of the document which was to disown her.

One other observation supports the fact that Lucey Hanks was not a daughter of Joseph Hanks. When she was asked by the clerk of Mercer county to present a certificate that she was over twenty-one years of age it would have been necessary to secure the signature of either her father or mother to this affirmation if they were living in the adjacent county of Nelson. It would also follow that her father or at least one of her five brothers would have been asked to sign the marriage bond, if she were a daughter of the Joseph Hanks in question.

The most difficult task which the West Virginia commission has to perform is to establish the connection between the Joseph Hanks of the Kentucky will and a Joseph Hanks whose name appears on certain documents in Hampshier county, Virginia. It is unfortunate that the census returns for Hampshier county, in the year 1782, do not give the names or the sex of the other ten members of Joseph Hanks' family. It is also to be regretted that the name of Joseph Hanks' wife does not appear on the land document for 1784. Some assistance is derived from another Hampshier county document bearing the name of Joseph Hanks, of which a photographic copy has been received

from Mrs. C. F. White, of Brookline, Massachusetts. It is a tax report for the year 1782 revealing that Joseph Hanks was the only male member of his family, of eleven, who had reached the age of twenty-one at that time.

The pension claim of Thomas Hanks, stating that he was born in 1759, place not named, and drafted into service in Hampshier county in 1780, does not make the desired transition between the Kentucky and Virginia Hankses. There is no positive evidence that he was the same Thomas whose name appears on the will of Joseph Hanks. He could not have been one of Joseph Hanks' family of "eleven white souls", living in Hampshier county in 1782, as he was twenty-three years old at this time and Joseph Hanks was the only male member of his family who was above the age of twenty-one. It would be just as difficult to show by the use of public records any relation whatever between the Joseph Hanks, who lived in Hampshier county, Virginia, and the Joseph Hanks who lived in Richmonde county, Virginia.

There are any number of traditions which have come down through different branches of the Hanks families which attempt to establish the identity of Lincoln's mother. There are also available in print several traditions and theories, attempting to trace Lincoln's maternal ancestry, which are cited below in case the commission cares to refer to any of them.

Traditional Parents of Nancy Hanks
George Washington & Lucy Hanks
John Marshall & Lucy Hanks
Unknown Va. farmer & Lucy Hanks
Joseph Hanks & Nancy Shipley Hanks

Henry Sparrow & Lucy Hanks
Sparrow
Thomas Sparrow & Elizabeth Hanks
Sparrow
John Berry & Lucy Hanks
Hanks & Lucy Shipley Hanks
William Hanks & _____ Hanks
_____ Hanks & _____ Berry Hanks
Luke Hanks & Ann Hanks

It is very clear that duly authorized public records should not be corrected or nullified to fit traditions or theories, but the great mass of data which has been gathered on this question should only be allowed to stand as it is in harmony with the documents which speak with authority.

References

- (1) The Pocahontas Times, Price, August 29, 1929.
 - (2) The Sorrows of Nancy, Boyd, p. 78.
 - (3) Life of Lincoln, Herndon, Vol. I, p. 3.
 - (4) Nancy Hanks, Hitchcock, p. 25.
 - (5) Life of Lincoln, Herndon, Vol. I, p. 3, note.
 - (6) The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Lamon, p. 11.
 - (7) Origins of Clements-Spalding and Allied Families, Clements, appendix, p. 2.
 - (8) Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood, Warren, p. 31.
 - (9) Abraham Lincoln a North Carolinian, Coggins, p. 13.
 - (10) Lincoln the Citizen, Whiney, p. 16.
 - (11) History of North Carolina, Arthur, p. 319.
- NOTE.—The spelling of the word Lucey in the argument is adopted to agree with the spelling in the signature on the certificate.—Ed.

good gold and silver in that strange and romantic savings bank that still holds practically every deposit that ever was made within its ample

treasure into a great galleon which he had captured outside Panama. He sailed with the treasure ship and a small crew to Cocos Island, leaving most of

the Captain passed around enough gold and silver to make the men feel rich, and promised that all finally

grunted company aboard.

"Never mind, boys," said bluff Captain Davis. "There's plenty of silver where the last came from, and the Spaniards are always to be caught napping by men who will keep their heads about them and obey orders."

Davis led the company in an attack upon Guayaquil, and then sailed away, leaving most of his men behind to shift for themselves, without leadership. Tradition says that Davis shipped an entirely new crew as soon as convenient, and made another visit

The Charleston Gazette, Sunday, December 8, 1929.

Nancy Hanks, Mother of Lincoln, Counties as Family Traveled to

Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, who was born at Dolls Gap, Mineral county, lived for a short time in Monroe and Greenbrier counties, while the Hanks family was enroute to Kentucky, according to a theory advanced by Andrew Price, president of the West Virginia Historical Society. In an article in The Pocahontas Times of Marlinton. At that time Monroe was a part of Greenbrier, the former having become a separate county in 1799.

The argument presented by Mr. Price follows:

"It becomes necessary to add another chapter to the history of the Hanks family to include the important branch bearing that name which settled in Greenbrier and Monroe counties which played such an important part in the history of those counties, especially Monroe.

"If these articles on the distaff side of Abraham Lincoln ever get bound up together in a book the proper title should be 'A Tangled Skein.' Nancy Hanks, the revered mother of Lincoln, did not know that she was destined to be one of the famous women of all places and times. Like Homer. Seven cities warred for Homer being dead, who living had no place to lay his head.

Evidence is Satisfactory

"The seven states that war for Nancy Hanks are Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. The evidence is satisfactory to me that Nancy Hanks was born at Dolls Gap in Mineral county, and the tradition that she was from Greenbrier county in no way conflicts with that conclusion. I mean that the tradition connecting her with Greenbrier county conf is the belief that she was born in Mineral county and that she went to Kentucky by the way of Greenbrier county.

"It will be noted that the family in Greenbrier and Monroe dropped the s at the end of the name and were and are known as Hank. This in no wise detracts from the value of the evidence for an odd s at the end of the name is not regarded as a material difference in the way names get twisted. Beside the s may be regarded as silent like the r in jaw.

"Another thing, Dr. Lewis A. Warren so lucidly explains for that what I write for the purpose of filling an aching void in the family paper must not be regarded as the finding of the commission of five who were appointed by the governor under joint legislative resolution number 13 to pass upon the history of Mrs. Nancy H. Lincoln. That is very true. In speaking that, he done spoke a parable. But If I have read the spirit of West Virginia right

in this matter, it is that it makes no difference in what state the immortal Nancy was born just so she was born in West Virginia.

Records are Sought

"I have been introduced to historians rather late in life. I had said in my haste that I knew about history and had even met historians, but I did not even know the meaning of the word. I have come to the conclusion that the true historian is a kind of a martyr with his shirt on fire who is harder to convince than the Sadducees and the Pharisees. They are not willing to accept as true the most authentic circumstances unless some feeble mind in the dim past has made a record of it and produced a document. Intuitive knowledge is defined as absolute certainty but no historian worthy of the name would accept it unless it was vouched for by some dead hand.

"My experience in Greenbrier county on my recent research there has convinced me that documents have their dangers and defects as well as tradition. In fact tradition is recommended by the Bible as the proper way to keep historical facts alive. Some twenty-odd years ago, Mrs. Hitchcock, a wealthy woman, and a historian, made an exhaustive search in regard to Nancy Hanks and published a well known volume at great expense. It is whispered that she must have spent over twenty thousand dollars in travelling alone. She came to Lewisburg and obtained a certified copy of a deed that showed that in 1780 William Hank had received a deed for 267 acres on Turkey creek. I saw this copy the other day. It was yellow with age. It was all in the handwriting of the clerk of the county court in Greenbrier county. When I first heard about it the deed seemed to be a little early for Greenbrier county deeds, but there it was, as authentic a document as I ever saw. Later I found it was wrong.

Sees Old Homeplace

"In September, when I went down to Monroe to assist in the unveiling of the monument of Godrell Lively, the soldier of the Revolution, I stayed all night with the Dicksons at Second creek, one of the fine Virginian homes of the two states. The next day, Hon. Clarence Dickson agreed to go on with me clear to the lower end of the county where oratory was loosed just two days before a big gasser let go on an adjacent farm. As we traveled to the place we came to Union, and the centurions required us to detour by the way of Willow Bend. As we passed an im-

pressive looking mansion by the side of the road called detour, Mr. Dickson remarked, 'There is the old Hank's place.' I was working on the history of another Revolutionary character that day and it did not greatly impress me any further than to wonder what relation if any they were to my patroness saint Nancy.

"A short time after that I was struggling to answer some of the letters that have piled up on me about this subject and another thing that occurred this year, I wrote to Dr. Louis A. Warren, head of the Lincoln Historical foundation, of Fort Wayne Ind., that I had seen the Hanks mansion in Monroe county. I then got a telegram to meet him at Lewisburg on Armistice day at nine o'clock and he drove into Lewisburg on the minute.

"If Dr. Warren thought to open the subject of Nancy Hanks' birthplace by investigating the history of the family in Greenbrier and Monroe, and to gently move her out of our horizon, he has not succeeded. On the other hand a study of the evidence convinces me that the migration from Hampshire (Mineral) came through Greenbrier (Monroe) on their way to Kentucky and that the infant Nancy lived both in Mineral and in Monroe. We even found where the friend of the family, the ubiquitous hunter, Charles Friend, had sworn in as a constable in Monroe, in 1804.

Court House Visited

"This would have probably been discovered sooner if it had not been for the document that showed that William Hank was a landowner in Greenbrier county in 1780 a date too early for the William Hank who was the uncle of Nancy.

"Armistice day found the court house at Lewisburg closed. Dr. Warren drove up in one of these modern cars that makes a king's carriage of a generation ago look like a wheelbarrow. Thinks I, the uncertain science history, old boy, has left you well found in the way of equipment. So we got into his car and went to Monroe to the court house of that county, twenty-two miles farther south on the Seneca Trail. Arrived at Union, we found everything wide open there with the nervous expectancy of the superior court opening the next day. Here we found plenty of documentary evidence. Also a great deal of the evidence that walks, talks, and breathes, and lives. In Monroe it is considered an honor to be connected with the Hanks family.

"My particular interest was in William Hanks, the pioneer. It soon de-

veloped that he had not only raised a family of children but that they were of unusual merit and ability. It was one of those earthly unions that seem to be blessed with splendid children.

"In a crowded hour in the clerk's office, it was apparent that William Hank had spent the best years of his life on the divide between the waters of Turkey creek and Dropping Lick creek, at the foot of Little mountain. That he had cleared and farmed a rich patch in the center of his holdings which had finally been enclosed in a boundary of 53 acres. That he had departed this life some time prior to 1835, and that he had disposed of all his holdings except the homestead of 53 acres, which was conveyed to his son Jehu by the rest of the heirs. That his children were six: David, Elizabeth, Caleb, Mary, John, and Jehu. That these children had scattered to distant counties with the exception of Jehu. That Rev. Mr. Hank of Hinton, a Baptist minister, is the only one of the third generation from William Hank who is generally known in Monroe. He is a son of Jehu. That some of the children of William moved to Anne Arundel county, Maryland. That is the county of Annapolis. That the Anne Arundel bunch were a stylish, aristocratic set who dressed exquisitely and had fine faces and a cultivated air. Rev. Wilbur Hank, referred to above, lives at Belle Point, near Hinton. The Hank land is still in the family and a direct descendant of William Hank was husking corn on the same land last week. All the counties in the Greenbrier valley are lands of steady habits.

Not Disappointed

"Leaving the court house at Union we took the detour. Union is one of the important towns of West Virginia. It has furnished to West Virginia two United States senators and other distinguished men. It was the life long home of the late Judge A. N. Campbell, the Big Sergeant of Bryan's battery. It was the home of Col. Rowan, the man who carried the message to Garcia. And many other famous men. There is a newspaper there that has been in the Johnston family for fifty years. The Monroe Watchman is a habit with the people of Monroe and a good habit, too.

"The Seneca Trail is closed more or less south of Union and the traveller's soul is vexed by the melancholy word detour. But the time is fast drawing on when the highway will be open for the full 198 miles north and south across West Virginia. Just now Union the county seat, is located on as pretty a syncline as one would wish to see with a hopeful anticline to the

GLIMPSES INTO THE PAST

Montgomery June 12, 1931.

How interesting would be the story of the travel through Sandy Creek Landing during the years previous to 1830? Much of the documentary evidence of this travel is lost, but there is still enough to make conjectures concerning this travel reasonably certain. From the Warrick, Spencer and Perry County History we have good reason to infer that Thomas, Amos and Ebenezer Richardson were in this section before their brother, John, and sisters came in 1817. On page 596, we learn that Thomas, Amos and Ebenezer were taxpayers in Perry county in 1815, and this was then a part of Perry county; and Ezekiel, William and James Ray are mentioned in the same list along with others who are known to have lived along the Sandy Creek-Selvin trail. And on page 483, of the same book, we find that John Richardson came down the river on a flatboat and located at what is now Lincoln City in 1817 and others came with him. And among the company we wonder if four were not maiden sisters, as we find on the early marriage records the names of Polly, Mary, Eleanor and Elizabeth Richardson, and also Nancy, who likely was the widow of John Richardson (John died in 1822) who married before the spring snows of 1825 disappeared and some of the husbands were living in what is now Hammond and Clay townships. They became the brides of Robert Angel, Littleton Powell, Matthew Posey, William Siseel and Thomas Jackson, respectively. Amos Richardson entered land in Clay township in May, 1817 (page 274). Evidently they were of the same family.

Daniel Grass was living west of this trail before 1815 and his sister, Elizabeth, married John B. Greathouse September 20, 1821 (marriage record).

The same list of taxpayers (page 495, W. S. P. Hist.) mentions Joseph Hanks and tradition gives evidence of a Hanks family living north of what is now Buffaloville and two of the daughters are buried not far from the present state highway 62. Whether this family was related to Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who came in 1816, or to Nancy Hanks Hall, who came in 1823 (Beveridge, page 73) we do not know.

And so we might continue to give a list from documentary records.

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The Lamars followed their sister, Mrs. Ezekiel Ray; Aaron Barker, who died in 1806 at Bardstown, Ky., was in Spencer county before his son, William, came in 1817 and located in the year 1818 with his family; and as with these families undoubtedly others did likewise. Many of our early settler descendants are very modest and do not seek publicity, even though these sketches do make interesting reading.

gold gold and silver in that strange and romantic savings bank that still holds practically every deposit that ever was made within its ample

went into a great galleon which he had captured outside Panama. He sailed with the treasure ship and a small crew to Cocos Island, leaving most of

the Captain passed around enough gold and silver to make the men feel rich, and promised that all would be safe.

"Vision finally

the buccaneers were

the Spaniards

leaders

killed by

few sur-

ivors were

grunted company aboard.

"Never mind, boys," said bluff Captain Davis. "There's plenty of silver where the last came from, and the Spaniards are always to be caught napping by men who will keep their heads about them and obey orders."

Davis led the company in an attack upon Guayaquil, and then sailed away, leaving most of his men behind to shift for themselves, without leadership. Tradition says that Davis shipped an entirely new crew as soon as convenient, and made another visit

of the most notorious of these treasure-hunting enterprises in a later tale

a woman with ermine taste, a rabbit-fur pocketbook, and her clothes wrong her in the sight of gods and women, though men know nothing about it."

Cocos Island remains perhaps the most popular objective of treasure-hunting expeditions. If you should go down there next month, you probably would find at least one small craft at anchor in Chatham Bay, and several well bronzed persons idling about on the island, talking about going to work to turn over the soil of the area between Brussels point at \$30 a yard, and imitation Valentines at 10 or 15 cents a yard which was one of the

kitten, so young and innocent eyes were still blue and bleary, would have been more appropriate on Eva's bonnet, and just as pretty.

In *The Fortunes of Oliver Horn*, Margaret Grant wears a particularly striking costume: "The cloth skirt came to her ankles, which were covered with yarn stockings, and her feet were encased in shoes that gave him the shivers, the soles being as thick as his own and the leather as tough,

(Please Turn To Page 7.)

The Charleston Gazette, Sunday, December 8, 1929.

(Please Turn To Page 7.)

Nancy Hanks, Mother of Lincoln, Lived in Monroe and Greenbrier Counties as Family Traveled to Kentucky, State Historian Says

Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, who was born at Dols Gap, Mineral county, lived for a short time in Monroe and Greenbrier counties, while the Hanks family was enroute to Kentucky, according to a theory advanced by Andrew Price, president of the West Virginia Historical Society, in an article in *The Pocahontas Times* of Marlinton. At that time Monroe was a part of Greenbrier, the former having become a separate county in 1799.

The argument presented by Mr. Price follows:

"It becomes necessary to add another chapter to the history of the Hanks family to include the important branch bearing that name which settled in Greenbrier and Monroe counties which played such an important part in the history of those counties, especially

"If these articles on the distaff side of Abraham Lincoln ever get bundled up together in a book the proper title should be 'A Tangled Skein.' Nancy Hanks, the revered mother of Lincoln, did not know that she was destined to be one of the famous women of all places and times. Like Homer, Seven cities warned for Homer being dead, who living had no place to lay his head.

Evidence is Satisfactory

"The seven states that war for Nancy Hanks are Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. The evidence is satisfactory to me that Nancy Hanks was born at Dols Gap in Mineral county, and the tradition that she was from Greenbrier county in no way conflicts with that conclusion. I mean that the tradition connecting her with Greenbrier county conf' is the belief that she was born in Mineral county and that she went to Kentucky by the way of Greenbrier county.

"It will be noted that the family in Greenbrier and Monroe dropped the s at the end of the name and were and are known as Hank. This in no wise detracts from the value of the evidence for an odd s at the end of the name is not regarded as a material difference in the way names get twisted. Beside the s may be regarded as silent like the r in jaw.

"Another thing, Dr. Lewis A. Warren so lucidly explains for that what I write for the purpose of filling an article void in the family paper must not be regarded as the finding of the commission of five who were appointed by the governor under joint legislative resolution number 13 to pass upon the history of Mrs. Nancy H. Lincoln. That is very true. In speaking that, he done spoke a parable. But if I have read the spirit of West Virginia right

In this matter, it is that it makes no difference in what state the immortal Nancy was born just so she was born in West Virginia.

Records are Sought

"I have been introduced to historians rather late in life. I had said in my haste that I knew about history and had even met historians, but I did not even know the meaning of the word. I have come to the conclusion that the true historian is a kind of a martyr with his shirt on fire who is harder to convince than the Sadducees and the Pharisees. They are not willing to accept as true the most authentic circumstances unless some ferble mind in the dim past has made a record of it and produced a document. Intuitive knowledge is deemed as absolute certainty but no historian worthy of the name would accept it unless it was vouchcd for by some dead hand.

"If Dr. Warren thought to open the subject of Nancy Hanks' birthplace by investigating the history of the family in Greenbrier and Monroe, and to gently move her out of our horizon, he has not succeeded. On the other hand, a study of the evidence convinces me that the migration from Hampshire (Mineral) came through Greenbrier (Monroe) on their way to Kentucky and that the infant Nancy lived both in Mineral and in Monroe. We even found where the friend of the family, the ubiquitous hunter, Charles Friend, had sworn in as a constable in Monroe, in 1804.

Court House Visited

"My experience in Greenbrier county on my recent research there has convinced me that documents have their dangers and defects as well as tradition. In fact tradition is recommended by the Bible as the proper way to keep historical facts alive. Some twenty-odd years ago, Mrs. Hitchcock, a wealthy woman, and a historian, made an exhaustive search in regard to Nancy Hanks and published a well known volume at great expense. It is whispered that she must have spent over twenty thousand dollars in travelling alone. She came to Lewisburg and obtained a certified copy of a deed that showed that in 1780 William Hank had received a deed for 267 acres on Turkey creek. I saw this copy the other day. It was yellow with age. It was all in the handwriting of the clerk of the county court in Greenbrier county. When I first heard about it the deed seemed to be a little early for Greenbrier county deeds, but there it was, as authentic a document as I ever saw. Later I found

Sees Old Homeplace

"In September, when I went down to Monroe to assist in the unveiling of the monument of Godrell Lively, the soldier of the Revolution, I stayed all night with the Dicksons at Second creek, one of the fine Virginian homes of the two states. The next day Hon. Clarence Dickson agreed to go on with me clear to the lower end of the county where oratory was loosed just two days before a big gasser let go on an adjacent farm. As we traveled to the place we came to Union, and the centurions required us to detour by the way of Willow Bend. As we passed an im-

pressive looking mansion by the side of the road called detour, Mr. Dickson remarked, "There is the old Hank's place." I was working on the history of another Revolutionary character that day and it did not greatly impress me any further than to wonder what relation if any they were to my patron saint Nancy.

"A short time after that I was struggling to answer some of the letters that have piled up on me about this subject and another thing that occurred this year, I wrote to Dr. Louis A. Warren, head of the Lincoln Historical foundation, of Fort Wayne Ind., that I had seen the Hanks mansion in Monroe county. I then got telegram to meet him at Lewisburg on Armistice day at nine o'clock and he drove into Lewisburg on the minute.

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Court House Visited

"This would have probably been discovered sooner if it had not been for the document that showed that William Hank was a landowner in Greenbrier county in 1780 a date too early for the William Hank who was the uncle of Nancy.

"Armistice day found the court house at Lewisburg closed. Dr. Warren drove up in one of these modern cars that makes a king's carriage of a generation ago look like a wheelbarrow. Thinks I, the uncertain science history, old boy, has left you well found in the way of equipment. So we got into his car and went to Monroe to the court house of that county, twenty-two miles farther south on the Seneca Trail. Arrived at Union, we found everything wide open there with the nervous expectancy of the superior court opening the next day. Here we found plenty of documentary evidence. Also a great deal of the evidence that walks, talks, and breathes, and lives. In Monroe it is considered an honor to be connected with the Hanks family.

"My particular interest was in William Hanks, the pioneer. It soon de-

volved that he had not only raised a family of children but that they were of unusual merit and ability. It was one of those earthly unions that seem to be blessed with splendid children.

"A crowded hour in the clerk's office, it was apparent that William Hank had spent the best years of his life on the divide between the waters of Turkey creek and Dropping Lick creek, at the foot of Little mountain. That he had cleared and farmed a patch in the center of his holdings which had finally been enclosed by boundary of 53 acres. That he had departed this life some time prior to 1835, and that he had disposed of all his holdings except the homestead of 53 acres which was conveyed to his son John by the rest of the heirs. That his children were six: David, Elizabeth, Caleb, Mary, John, and Jehu. That these children had scattered to distant counties with the exception of Jehu. That Rev. Mr. Hank of Hinton, a Baptist minister, is the only one of Jehu's sons.

"And so we came to the divide between the waters of Turkey creek and Dropping Lick creek. We heard some word of the son Caleb. He was a noted rifle shot. It is remembered that he would have the young men roll down a hill a specially prepared barrel-head and Caleb would shoot at it as rolled, to practice shooting a running deer.

"The pioneer William chose good land and good hunting. It is the same neighborhood that John Lybrock killed a panther fourteen feet long, of which we have documentary evidence. It must have been the same panther that eat up John Draper's horse at one meal, and which caused Thomas Jefferson, who found its bones in Organ Cave, to call it the megalonyx, or the big claw.

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"By far the most famous member of the family was the Rev. Jehu Hank, the leading citizen of Turkey creek. A lay preacher, rich man, and noted singer. He was a man well over six feet tall, with a long beard down on his bosom, with a shaven upper lip, a great horseman, and a thinker and a counsellor among his people. He built the great house that still stands in perfect repair. It dates from 1846. It has three chimneys each one of which would cost as much as a modern cottage. The ceilings are twelve feet high. I did not measure them but I heard it said and they looked it. The doors are extra width. It is the home of Jesse L. Hines a member of an ancient

family of Monroe. Mr. Hines is the brother of the able lawyers of Braxton county. Mrs. Hines is the daughter of the manor.

Taught Singing School

"Jehu had a melodious bass voice. Once riding along a road by a church where service was being held he heard the congregation start a hymn, and not having gotten off on the right foot, it failed to gain momentum, and then silence. Then through the open window boomed the voice of the magnificent Jehu, and he sat on his horse and sang with the congregation.

"Porter Boyd remembers him well. Porter Boyd is 75 years old and comes in the class with Judge Lively as being a living grandson of a Revolutionary soldier. Son of Patrick Porterfield Boyd, who was a son of the Patrick Boyd, of the Continental line, who wintered at Valley Forge. Patrick Boyd married Ann McDowell, in the Lewisburg fort, in the year 1777.

"Jehu Hank was born on Turkey creek in 1801 and died there in 1882 aged 81 years. He was a money maker. Gradually acquired all of the Hank land and a great deal more. Was the owner of a number of slaves. Taught singing school. Lined them up and started the piece with a tuning fork and made them beat time. An old lady told me that when she saw the same neighborhood that John Lybrock killed a panther fourteen feet long, of which we have documentary evidence. It must have been the same panther that eat up John Draper's horse at one meal, and which caused Thomas Jefferson, who found its bones in Organ Cave, to call it the megalonyx, or the big claw.

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"William Hanks or Hank went first to Rockingham county which at that time included most of Pendleton and which now is about 20 miles from Dols Gap. That is considered the richest county in the United States in farm land and in that day and time, farm land was what counted most. Here William acquired some money probably from labor for the rich Pennsylvania-Dutch wheat raisers of the valley, and some time in the seventeenth century, he found the rich lands of the Greenbrier valley and William Cooper sold him 267 acres, a part of a patent of 380 acres, and deeded it to him as William Hank of Rockingham county.

"Later on circumstances caused Joseph Hanks, his father, to leave for Kentucky. For obvious reasons when anyone went from the Pennsylvania settlements that lay west of the mountains, one would naturally suppose that they would go by water down the Monongahela or the Ohio rivers and by boats down the Ohio.

"But when you come to think about it, Dols Gap is on the trail and the cause of the trail that led to Mc-

Gullough's Path, which is the road we now call Seneca Trail. This trail was the neutral warrior's road north and south and a well travelled trail led from Dols Gap to Turkey creek, and if William lived on that route it is natural to suppose that the Hanks family when they hit the road with hunters Charles Friend and Joe Logston that they would come by William's home. It is very possible that little Nancy played around the cabin on Turkey creek. And that the family is right that causes the Hanks to appear in Kentucky from Greenbrier county. Bear in mind Monroe was formed entirely from Greenbrier in 1799.

Went Back to Greenbrier

"And what is more significant is that Anne, having buried her husband Joseph, in 1793, in the savage land on Rough River, should return to spend the rest of her life on Turkey creek, in Virginia. There is no evidence that she could or would have come back to Hampshire, but there is every reason to believe that she did come back to Greenbrier.

"And that is the belief that grew up in me as I pondered on the story as it unfolded itself in the hurried re-search of Armistice day.

"The fly in the ointment, the weak point in the argument, was caused by documentary evidence. In Dr. Warren's brief case was the yellow certificate in the hand writing of C. B. Buster, clerk of the county clerk of Greenbrier county, that William Hank got a deed of land in 1780, and if that was true then he could not have been William of Dols Gap.

"But the next day it was all explained. Deed book 1 page 55, in Greenbrier county, has the deed and it bears no certain date. It reads this blank day of blank year, and it was admitted to record and proved in 1789, and was for a part of a tract of land of 380 acres patented to William Cooper. A glance at the index showed the patent to have been issued in 1787. And that corresponds well enough to the exodus from Dols Gap.

"To make the point clearer about the value of documentary evidence in history that incident in George Washington's life may be cited. A great many historians refuse to believe that George Washington cut down a cherry tree with his hatchet because no indictment can be found covering the act. But I prefer to follow the interpretation of the Hon. Bill who says that he cut the tree for a fishing pole.

GLIMPSES INTO THE PAST

Monitor June 12, 1931.

How interesting would be the story of the travel through Sandy Creek Landing during the years previous to 1830? Much of the documentary evidence of this travel is lost, but there is still enough to make conjectures concerning this travel reasonably certain. From the Warrick, Spencer and Perry County History we have good reason to infer that Thomas, Amos and Ebenezer Richardson were in this section before their brother, John, and sisters came in 1817. On page 596, we learn that Thomas, Amos and Ebenezer were taxpayers in Perry county in 1815, and this was then a part of Perry county; and Ezekiel, William and James Ray are mentioned in the same list along with others who are known to have lived along the Sandy Creek-Selvin trail. And on page 483, of the same book, we find that John Richardson came down the river on a flatboat and located at what is now Lincoln City in 1817 and others came with him. And among the company we wonder if four were not maiden sisters, as we find on the early marriage records the names of Polly, Mary, Eleanor and Elizabeth Richardson, and also Nancy, who likely was the widow of John Richardson (John died in 1822) who married before the spring snows of 1825 disappeared and some of the husbands were living in what is now Hammond and Clay townships. They became the brides of Robert Angel, Littleton Powell, Matthew Posey, William Sisell and Thomas Jackson, respectively. Amos Richardson entered land in Clay township in May, 1817 (page 274). Evidently they were of the same family.

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And so we might continue to give a list from documentary records.

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The Lamars followed their sister, Mrs. Ezekiel Ray; Aaron Barker, who died in 1806 at Bardstown, Ky., was in Spencer county before his son, William, came in 1817 and located in the year 1818 with his family; and as with these families undoubtedly others did likewise. Many of our early settler descendants are very modest and do not seek publicity, even though these sketches do make interesting reading.

Lincoln's Mother

SO THE woman, Nancy Hanks, died, thirty-six years old, a pioneer sacrifice, with memories of monotonous, endless everyday chores, of mystic Bible verses read over and over for their promises, and with memories of blue wistful hills and a summer when the crab-apple blossoms flamed white and she carried a boy-child into the world.

—Carl Sandburg.

NGER'S MID-WEST REVIEW
February, 1931

KESSINGER'S MID-WEST REVIEW
February, 1931

LINCOLN LORE IS DISCLOSED

Riley League Preserves
Copy of Marriage Record

Dated 1806

Riley League, of 152 High street, is the possessor of a copy of the marriage record of the parents of Abraham Lincoln, the anniversary of whose birth is being observed today. Mr. League himself was born near the first home of the Lincoln family.

Facts of the early life of the Lincolns seem to have escaped the historians.

The marriage record of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, has been found preserved in the courthouse at Springfield Washington county, Ky. The home of Richard Berry, guardian of Nancy Hanks, was in this county, seven miles from Springfield. The record shows the couple were married at his home June 12, 1806, by Deacon Jesse Head, Methodist minister.

The Lincolns made their home with the Berrys for some time after their marriage. In the little log cabin of the Berry's the two Lincoln children, Sarah and Abraham, were born, according to the records found in Springfield. Subsequently the Lincolns removed to LeRue, now Hardin county, Ky., where they established the home about which the first recollections of Abraham Lincoln centered.

Mr. League knows the Berry place well. He often has been in the little cabin, he says, and has eaten meals in it. He often assisted in setting up farm machinery

HAMILTON OHIO NEWS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1931.

LINCOLN LORE

No. 112.

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 1, 1931

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren

Editor

A JUNE BRIDE

On June 12 a new Lincoln shrine will be dedicated at Harrodsburg, Kentucky. The cabin in which the parents of the president were married, enclosed within a beautiful edifice, will be preserved as a memorial of the marriage vows that made Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks husband and wife.

The nuptials occurring in the month of June, 1906, served as a climax of another one of those typical pioneer romances where the children of neighbors were united after having been playmates, sweethearts, and lovers.

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were both orphans, having lost their fathers before they reached their teens. Thomas' father was massacred by the Indians in Kentucky in 1786. Both family tradition and court documents, reveal that Nancy's mother was a widow when she came to Kentucky some time before 1790.

After the second marriage of Nancy's mother the child went to live with Richard Berry, Sr., whose wife is said to have been a sister of Nancy's mother. Her home was not far from where the widow Lincoln was living on Beech Fork.

The senior Richard Berry died sometime before December 4, 1798, the date on which his will was probated. His old daughter, Joanna Berry Brumfield, was the mother of William Brumfield, who married "Ann" Lincoln, sister of Thomas Lincoln. Richard Berry, Sr.'s, oldest son, Richard Berry, Jr., after his father's death, became the guardian of Nancy Hanks, and he so signs on her marriage bond.

It will be noted that Richard Berry, Jr., was a brother-in-law to Thomas Lincoln's sister. One who is familiar with the close proximity of the Berry, Brumfield, Crume, and Lincoln homes on Beech Fork will be able to visualize the community that served as

playground for the children of these pioneers. All five of the Widow Lincoln's children, including Thomas, married young people living in the Beech Fork neighborhood.

From the reminiscences of Mr. James Thompson and William Hardesty, we glean the following description of the Richard Berry cabin "on the banks of Beech Fork near what was then called Mattingly's Mill, now called Beechland Mills. It is situated about seven miles from Springfield, on the top of a grassy knoll in the midst of a clump of trees. The higher cabin to the right in the photograph is the original Berry Cabin, while the one to the left has been constructed since. The old cabin has but one room, and it was in that room that deacon Jesse Head performed the ceremony that united Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. The rough floor timbers show the usage that they have been subjected to, and the logs that form the walls are blackened with smoke and age. The mud with which the cabin is chinked has grown hard and is as much a part of the structure as the logs whose interstices it fills."

The traditions gathered by Herndon and used by him in his Lincoln biography, and later by Lamon and Beveridge, have been responsible for building up a false and purely imaginary background for the girlhood days of Nancy Hanks.

One by one duly authorized public records have made invalid this idle talk and gossip which Herndon displayed under the caption of "Gods naked truth," and when the "stagnant putrid pool" from which he claimed Lincoln came is actually located it proves to be associated with another family.

The confusion of Lincoln's mother with another Nancy Hanks, a woman about the same age, is partly responsible for the great injustice done to the orphan girl who lived in the home of the Berrys.

According to Herndon, Thomas and Betsey Sparrow took the waif, Nancy, into their home to live and they became her foster parents. The Sparrows were not married until six and one-half years after the date of Nancy's alleged adoption by them, and there is no dependable evidence to show that she ever lived with them.

Herndon's classification of Nancy among the poor whites is also unjust.

The Berrys, Brumfields, Crumes, Mitchells, Thompsons, Caldwells, Shipleys, etc., among whom she lived in Washington County and who had immigrated from Virginia, would not bear out the reflection which has been cast on her own forebears.

The disgusting camp meeting scene featuring Nancy Hanks as a young lady in a most unbecoming manner is a gross misrepresentation of the woman who was to become the bride of Thomas Lincoln. Herndon not only assumes the identity of the female who participated in this incident but he deliberately moves the original traditional story back ten years to antidate the marriage of Nancy Hanks.

The Herndon manuscripts also allege that Nancy Hanks was courted by Thomas Lincoln while she was a visitor in the home of Joseph Hanks in Elizabethtown, and that Lincoln met Nancy in Hank's carpenter shop. This story is also baseless. Joseph Hanks was a single man until four years after Nancy's marriage and had neither home nor carpenter shop in Elizabethtown previous to 1806.

Lamon using the Herndon source material told the world that of "Nancy Hanks marriage there exists no evidence but that of mutual acknowledgement and cohabitation." He further states that she married a man who did not love her and that she was a sort of a second choice wife. This of course paved the way for the gross libel which both Herndon, Lamon, and later writers have brought against the moral character of the president's mother.

The marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, on file in the Washington county court house, signed by Richard Berry, the guardian of Nancy Hanks, lifts the mother of Lincoln out of Herndon's "stagnant putrid pool" and places her in a wholesome cabin on Beech Fork. Here she was wooed and won by a worthy pioneer, the youngest son of the Widow Lincoln.

It is to be hoped that those who have a voice in the dedication of these nuptial logs now preserved at Harrodsburg, will make plain that the parents of Abraham Lincoln are worthy of this belated recognition of their honorable and happy union, which was productive of such a noble son as Abraham Lincoln.

Nancy Hanks

STEPHEN I. GILCHRIST
Director

Telephone:
LENOX 7178

THE HENRY B. JOY HISTORICAL RESEARCH

12917 E. JEFFERSON AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

August 20, 1931.

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Nat. Life Ins. Bldg.
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren:

Reading Vannest's book on Lincoln in Indiana has brought to our mind rather sharply that there is a difference of opinion between yourself and ideas expressed in the works of the late Dr. Barton as to the parentage of Abraham's mother, Nancy Hanks. Dr. Barton appeared to scoff at any theory but that of the illegitimate birth of Nancy Hanks. Our own research on Lincoln's parentage has been very small compared with that on the later period of his life, but so far as we have gone into the matter we are inclined to uphold the idea that Lucy Hanks, the mother of Nancy, may not have been a Hanks at all but have married one of the Hanks boys who died before she left for Kentucky so that at the time of her marriage to Sparrow she was a widow and her daughter Nancy was legitimate. In this, I believe, we are in line with your own ideas on the matter. Can you give us any notion as to why Barton had the strong feeling he showed in his books in favor of the illegitimacy of Nancy Hanks? Was it because he was a great admirer of Herndon's work or what was the reason? Have you found anything since the publication of your book, "Lincoln's Parentage and

The Henry B. Joy Historical Research

2---Dr. Louis A. Warren.

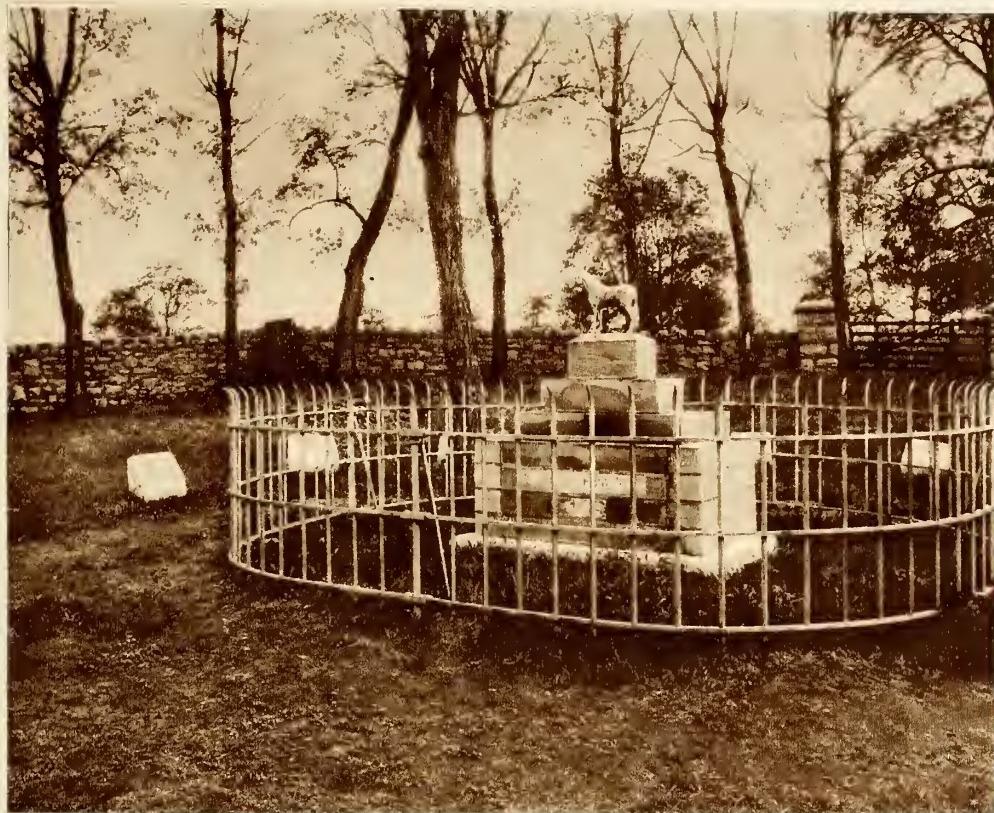
"Childhood", which would tend to uphold or contradict your ideas as to the parentage of Nancy Hanks? By the way, I wish that you would send us an autographed (by yourself) copy of that book, enclosing, of course, a bill for same; I assure you I would be very pleased to receive it.

Sincerely yours,

M. C. McConkey

MC B

Assistant Director.



The famous horse graveyard on Hamburg Place.
(Nancy Hanks statue in center)

—Cusick

NANCY HANKS

Foaled 1886

Died 1915

World's champion trotter from 1892 to 1894—record 2:04.
Holder of the world's record for the fastest three consecutive
heats in a race, 2:12, 2:12½ and 2:12, to high wheels, and the
fastest first, second and third heats in a race to that hitch. Dam
of Admiral Dewey 2:04¾, Lord Roberts 2:07¼, Nancy McKer-
ron 2:10½ (at three years old), Markala 2:18¼, Narion (dam
of Vice Commodore 2:11, Albia 2:10¾, Princess of Monaco, etc.)

* * * * *

Kennedy Program May
1948 132

Chicago, Illinois,
December 22nd 1932.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren.

Your reiteration, "A boy not nine years of age would not be especially interested in knowing who his mother's father was." leads me to suggest, "Perhaps you have overlooked certain facts."

Refreshing my memory I am able to state that Abraham Lincoln did not continue to live just a boy not nine years of age but continued to live more than forty-six years after his mother's death which occurred when he was not nine years of age.

During those forty-six years of his continued existence he displayed, in his untiring quest - not one of mere curiosity - but a quest that troubled and annoyed and which he hoped would lead to the discovery of his mother's father. Thirteen of these years he lived with his father which brings us to the year 1831 when he left his father's log cabin home. The following twenty years he saw his father every year and sometimes twice a year, but never once did Thomas Lincoln reply to his son's question, "Who was my mother's father?"

If Thomas Lincoln did not know who was the father of his wife - Abraham Lincoln's mother - he did know whether or no Lucy Hanks was the "irregular" mother of Nancy Hanks, or the widow of a supposed son of Joseph Hanks and father of Nancy Hanks.

Why did Thomas Lincoln refuse to give his son the information he so earnestly sought? Perhaps the father's refusal, together with another reason dictated the spirit in which Abraham Lincoln replied to the announcement of his father's approaching death. He wrote: "Say to him that if we could meet now, it is doubtful whether it would not be more painful than pleasant."

What a strange reply! That Abraham Lincoln should thus write. These words of his have confounded me. That this man of patience, of tenderness of "Malice for none with charity for all," shold have penned these words^{is} sorely troubelsome. There must have been grave provocation that ~~induced~~ caused this man to indite those words.

In your Lincoln Lore No. 192 I note the following statement "The tradition that she (Nancy Hanks Lincoln - Abraham Lincoln's mother) lived in the home of Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow and was brought up by them is without foundation" I do not think you are quite justified in making so broad and contradictory an assertion. As far as I am concerned I certainly had a foundation on which to assert my statement "Dennis Hanks told me in an interview I had with him in 1891 that Nancy Hanks, Abraham Lincoln's mother and his first cousin lived with Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow, as he also did, and was brought up by them." Further he stated that Nancy Hanks Lincoln wrote her foster parents and asked them to come to her after the Lincolns had moved to Indiana.

The Sparrows came and were stricken - fatal victims of the "Milk sickness" which caused the death of many of those early settlers in Indiana.

Now the question arises - what object would Dennis Hanks have in telling me such an untruth - so unreasonable and so uncalled for? At the time of his foster parents' death he was eighteen years of age and nineteen when Nancy Hanks Lincoln died. Old enough to have been quite familiar with the family history. When I asked him "Who was Nancy Hanks father?" he replied "That's what Abe wus allers trying to find out."

I have been hoping that you would be in Chicago and that when here you would call. I am sure I have some Lincoln matter you will be interested in.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely. *Eleanor Godley*

There is no picture of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham Lincoln. She died before the days of photography, and pictures of her would have had to have been a painting, pencil sketch, silhouette, steel engraving, bust, medallion, or some of the processes used at that time. The first daguerreotypes were made in 1839, and she died in 1818. Thomas Lincoln later married Sarah Bush Johnson who could not have exerted a more motherly influence over the coming president if he had been her own son. When nominated for the Presidency, Lincoln visited his step-mother at the family home in Coles county, his father having died in 1852.

There is an excellent photograph of Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln, and a copy was sent to me, by Mrs. Harriet Chapman, her grand-daughter.

Recently in a syndicate article in the press a puzzle picture is given of Lincoln's step-mother and the question is asked "Who was Nancy Hanks?" *will be sent 11/33*

Nancy Hanks

December 28, 1932

Mrs. Eleanor Gridley
5844 Harper Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mrs. Gridley:

We are always pleased to hear from you but I regret exceedingly that our viewpoints about the publicity of Dennis Hanks testimony are far apart. If you will refer to my letter written to you July 14, 1932, you will find here the objections raised to many of the questions in your recent letter.

With regard to the geniality between Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abraham Lincoln, I have already under way a Lincoln Lore bulletin on that subject which I think will set forth my viewpoint at least on the letter which you quote in which Abraham Lincoln mentions his father. It would interest me very much if you could produce some evidence that would prove that Thomas Lincoln at any time ever refused to tell his son all or anything about the family history.

I do not think that previous to 1851 Abraham Lincoln would have any occasion to worry very much over the identity of his grandparents. I believe it is likely he had never seen them and they had long since been dead.

We have proved that Dennis Hanks' own mother, who was named Nancy Hanks, lived with Elizabeth Sparrow and Thomas Sparrow but I have never heard Dennis or anyone else say that there were two Nancy Hanks in the Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow home at the same time.

Dennis Hanks has confused his own mother with whom he lived but a very short time with the mother of Abraham Lincoln, whether intentionally or not, I do not know.

The more I read of Dennis Hanks' testimony, the more I think that many times he must have been in the same attitude as he was on the day you mention in the last edition of your book on page 159.

Mrs. Eleanor Gridley

- 2 -

December 28, 1932

I have one or two tentative dates for Chicago in the near future and hope I will some day be able to carry out my purpose to call on you while there.

Very sincerely yours,

Director

Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:AAM

VIRGINIA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

D. Louis A. Warren, VIRGINIA February 27, 1933
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren,

We have John Alderson,
Tanner's ^{MS} list of marriages from 1776
to 1798, and a Photostat negative,
from which I will be glad to have
a positive made if you wish it.

The list has not been indexed.
I will have it searched for any
names you wish.

The record book of Broad Run Bap-
tist Church in Tazewell County, Va
lists a Nancy Hanks, "added by baptism
June 13, 1778."

Very truly yours,
Garnett Ryland
Librarian

March 3, 1933

Virginia Baptist Historical Society
University of Richmond
Richmond, Virginia

Attention: Garnett Ryland, Librarian

Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for your offer to have the photostat copies made from the John Alderson list of marriages from 1776 to 1798.

We will indeed be very glad to have you make a photostat copy from this negative which you have and be pleased to reimburse you for the cost incurred thereby.

It has occurred to me that you might like to be placed on the mailing list for the weekly bulletin which we issue from this Foundation and which from time to time carries data that would be of interest to the Baptist Historical Society of Virginia. Inasmuch as both of Lincoln's parents were Baptists and both of them were born in Virginia, it would seem quite timely that your Society would have some information about the early families of the Lincolns and Hankses.

Thank you very much for the quotation about the baptism of Nancy Hanks in Fauquier County on June 13, 1778.

If this Foundation can be of any help to you in your quest, please do not fail to call upon us.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:AAM

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

July 23, 1934

Virginia Baptist Historical Society
University of Richmond
Richmond, Va.

Gentlemen: Attention Garnett Ryland, Librarian

Some time ago I wrote you with reference to the photostating of the John Alderson, Jr.'s. manuscript list of marriages from 1776 to 1798.

You advised me at that time that you had a photostatic negative from which you would be pleased to have positives made.

We will be very glad indeed to forward you a check in advance for the work if you will advise us how much it is to cost.

You also suggested in your letter that in the record book of Broad Run Baptist Church in Fauquier County, Virginia, the name of Nancy Hanks is listed on June 13, 1778 and of course we would be very much interested to know who her parents were or any other information that the records may carry.

Inasmuch as the Lincolns were Baptists in Kentucky and Indiana and that his entire early life seems to have been in the Baptist background, we would be more than pleased to receive such assistance which you are able to give us and for which we are very willing to pay.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:EB

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation

Linville Creek Church Book
Linda
Anne Taylor addressed 201

January 21, 1927

Virginia Baptist Historical Society
University of Richmond
Richmond, Virginia

Gentlemen: Attention: Garnett Ryland, Librarian

It now appears as if a speaking itinerary
which has been arranged for me will bring me into
Richmond on February 5.

I am wondering if there might be made available
to me on that day or the day following John Alderson,
Jr's manuscript list of marriages from 1776 to 1798,
also any other data that may refer to the Linville Creek
Baptist Church in Rockingham County, Virginia.

I am very anxious indeed to see these old books
if they have not already been reproduced in some books.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

**THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY**

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

PEORIA OFFICE

TO Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation
SUBJECT

DATE February 24, 1934

Dear Dr. Warren:

We have just received postcard reading as below
and thinking it will interest you I send it to you verbatim:

"Gentlemen:

TIME for this week says you will mail free
a copy of Episodes in Lincoln's Life.

COL. CLARENCE E. WOODS, Box 162.

I shall be happy to receive a copy. I was born
9 miles distant from Lincoln's parent's cabin, which
was in Washington County, Ky. One night not long ago,
more wideawake citizens of the adjoining county of
Mercer, hauled away to Harrodsburg, Ky., the remnants
of the original Tom Lincoln & Nancy Hanks cabin, where
my cousin, Rev. Jesse Head married them about 1804, a
fact unverified for 90 years, that cast a cloud over
ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S legitimacy, or rather his own mother's
legitimacy. See top P. 6, "Abraham Lincoln, by Lord
Charnwood, Independent Press Edition, 1924, (Best History
of Lincoln.)"

Yours very truly,

Ralph C. Lowes

R. C. Lowes/VC

* * *

"Who's Abraham Lincoln?"

Occasionally Lexingtonians are shocked by some visitor inquiring, "Who was Henry Clay?" And Andrew G. Leonard was shocked when Lillian Russell, the great actress, asked him, "Who Was Abraham Lincoln?"

Miss Russell, who was in Lexington on a vaudeville tour, was being entertained at John E. Madden's "Hamburg Place." When Mr. Leonard was introduced to her, she remarked, "Your name sounds familiar," to which he replied, "It should, your name being Helen Leonard."

After Miss Russell had seen the noted horse graveyard on Hamburg Place, she said to Mr. Leonard, "Why, they have actually erected monuments to horses. Why in the world is that?" Mr. Leonard explained that Mr. Hadden owned and trained some famous horses, and thought they deserved such memorialization.

"Now, there's that monument to Nancy Hanks," Mr. Leonard said. "You of course know what a great trotter Nancy Hanks was. Mr. Madden thought enough of her and her reputation to have a miniature statue made and placed on the monument over her grave."

"Nancy Hanks!" exclaimed Miss Russell. "What a horribly ugly name for a horse. How did they happen to select that name?"

"Why, she was named for the mother of Abraham Lincoln," Mr. Leonard replied.

"Who was Abraham Lincoln?" inquired Miss Russell.

Mr. Leonard still thinks Miss Russell was trying to "kid him." Probably so, but Mr. Leonard was speechless.

Now, if someone comes along this year of the Boone bicentennial and asked, "Who was Daniel Boone?" it is time to start a new and more modern directory of notables.

Lexington Herald 8-5-34

NANCY LINCOLN'S MARK

Will of Thomas Sparrow Found in Spencer Court Records by WPA.

WPA Headquarters, Indianapolis, July 7.—A thin sheet of yellowed paper with old fashioned script dimmed by years has just been found by Works Progress Administration women workers who were renovating the court files in the Spencer county court house at Rockport. It looked like any of the hundreds of documents they have been indexing and putting in order. But in the left hand corner they found something that made them gasp.

It read, "Nancy Lincoln, her mark." There, with a small x, the mother of Abraham Lincoln had affixed her signature as witness to a will. It was the testament of Thomas Sparrow, her uncle, who with his wife, Betsy Hanks Sparrow, had come to Spencer county from Kentucky in 1817, and made his home with the Lincolns. They also brought with them, Dennis Hanks, Nancy's cousin, who was the beneficiary of the will, and who lived with the Lincoln family many years.

Shortly after the will was attested in September, 1818, Thomas Sparrow died, a victim of the epidemic of "milk fever." His wife succumbed to the same disease shortly thereafter, and in the middle of October, 1818, Nancy Lincoln also died of the milk fever.

Thomas Sparrow's Will.

The document reads as follows: "October 9th, 1818. This twenty-first day of September in the year Eighteen Hundred and Eighteen Thomas Sparrow is in perfect senses on this date above mentioned, that all the goods and chattels that the above mentioned Thomas Sparrow has is to belong to his wife Elizabeth Sparrow so that she can do as she pleases with until her death and after her death the whole of the property above mentioned is to fall to Dennis Hanks when he comes of age and that the above T. Sparrow has made choice of Thomas Carter to be his Executor for his effects above written this from under my hand and seal. Signed: David Casebier, Nancy Lincoln her mark, and Thomas Sparrow his mark."

Other valuable papers discovered by the WPA workers were probate records dating back to 1818, during which time the court was held in the home of Azel Dorsey, near Rockport.

The discovery of the Lincoln document comes at the time when residents of southern Indiana are celebrating the Lincoln Country Summer Festival in the Lincoln Pioneer Village at Rockport. Here on July 4th, four buildings constructed by WPA workers during the past year are to be dedicated by Wayne Coy, state WPA administrator.

THE LINCOLN COUNTRY CELEBRATION

Rockport and Spencer county have received much favorable publicity in the past month due to the week's festivities that came to a close Saturday. The entire program was a worthy one and much credit is due the officers of the Spencer County Historical Society and their assistants. Great numbers of visitors attended one or more of the various programs: some from far away.

If this paper were to do justice to the entire program there would be little else in this issue.

The presentation of the play written by Miss Alice Hebert was not as largely attended as its worthiness deserved. It was well written and ably presented by local talent.

The largest crowd of the week was present the last day—Saturday. All present saw the next governor of the state, as both candidates were present and talked from the same platform. Their talks were non-political and received with approbation by the large crowd. Other speakers were given cordial receptions, also.

The Parade of Progress was not as large as the Pioneer Parade of a year ago, but it did contain some fine displays. The first prize in the parade of floats was given the Kiwanis Lincoln Memorial, a neatly decorated float with William Parsley impersonating Lincoln; the second prize went to the Rockport Democrat and the third prize to the Basye Drug Store. Other floats were very deserving as were also some displays that were not introduced as under one head or firm.

No accident marred the day and the weather was ideal.

BOONVILLE PRESS CLUB PICNIC

The Indiana Lincoln Union will assist the Boonville Press Club at the annual meeting on Sunday, July 12, at the Nancy Hanks Lincoln park. Following the ceremony at the grave, in which the Lincoln Union will participate, they will meet with Myron T. Rees, of the Division of Lands and Waters of the Indiana Conservation Department, and will take up the matter of building a new approach to the park from the west, making a complete new road from state road No. 62, near Gentryville. If such an approach is built it will be carefully designed and will be specially beautified.

The State of Indiana expended more than \$3,000 last year for additional land to be added to the Nancy Hanks Lincoln park, and the Indiana Lincoln Union bought an additional \$3,500 tract of land; and the park now comprises land adjoining the town of Gentryville.

The annual meeting of the Boonville Press Club is considered the largest gathering that annually meets in the Nancy Hanks Lincoln park. The first meeting of the Press Club was held in 1924 and was attended by forty people. Each year since then the attendance has increased until last year 16,000 people attended. The Press Club is preparing to take care of more people than ever at the meeting on Sunday, July 12.

The three principal speakers are State Senator Henry F. Schricker, Democratic candidate for lieutenant-governor; Judge Raymond S. Springer, Republican candidate for governor; and former U. S. Senator James E. Watson. Former State Senator W. B. Carleton will deliver the eulogy at the ceremony at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Several organizations will place wreaths upon the grave during this service.

The day's program starts at 9:30 a.m. with a mamouth Sunday school class taught by Judge Roscoe Kiper. Several bands and orchestras will play during the day.

NANCY LINCOLN'S MARK

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Shortly after the will was attested in September, 1818, Thomas Sparrow died, a victim of the epidemic of "milk fever." His wife succumbed to the same disease shortly thereafter, and in the middle of October, 1818, Nancy Lincoln also died of the milk fever.

Thomas Sparrow's Will.

The document reads as follows:

"October 9th, 1818. This twenty-first day of September in the year Fifteen Hundred and Eighteen Thomas Sparrow is in perfect senses on this date above mentioned, that all the goods and chattels that the above mentioned Thomas Sparrow has is to belong to his wife Elizabeth Sparrow so that she can do as she pleases with until her death and after her death the whole of the property above mentioned is to fall to Dennis Hanks when he comes of age and that the above T. Sparrow has made choice of Thomas Carter to be his Executor for his effects above written this from under my hand and seal. Signed: David Casebier, Nancy Lincoln her mark, and Thomas Sparrow his mark."

Other valuable papers discovered by the WPA workers were probate records dating back to 1818, during which time the court was held in the home of Azel Dorsey, near Rockport.

The discovery of the Lincoln document comes at the time when residents of southern Indiana are celebrating the Lincoln Country Summer Festival in the Lincoln Pioneer Village at Rockport. Here on July 4th, four buildings constructed by WPA workers during the past year are to be dedicated by Wayne Coy, state WPA administrator.

"The (above) will was probated October 9, 1818, with the name of John Morgan appearing as clerk. The fire which destroyed the court house in 1833, destroyed many of the old records, but this will together with several other old records was salvaged, and today, 118 years after filing for probate, the ancient document is creating much interest."—Rockport Democrat.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 383

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August 10, 1936

THE THOMAS SPARROW WILL

The discovery, in the Spencer County, Indiana, Court House, of a copy of the Thomas Sparrow will, bearing the name of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of the President, establishes many dates which have lacked documentary confirmation and opens up other questions which have long been debated.

It is to be regretted that the original will has not been discovered; but the copy preserved is just as important for all historical purposes. The copy of the will brought to light was made by John Morgan, Clerk of the Spencer County Court, in 1818 at the time the will was probated. The clerk's record, confirming the validity of the will is valuable for establishing certain historical data. We only have room in this issue of Lincoln Lore for the reproduction of the copy of the will.

The Will

"October 9th, 1818—This twenty-first day of September in the year Eighteen Hundred and Eighteen Thomas Sparrow is in his perfect senses on this date above mentioned, that all the goods and chattels that the above mentioned Thomas Sparrow has is to belong to his wife Elizabeth Sparrow so that she can do as she pleases with it until her death and after her death the whole of the property above mentioned is to fall to Dennis Hanks when he comes of age and that the above T. Sparrow has made choice of Thomas Carter to be his Executor for his effects above written this from under my hand and seal.

"Thomas (X) Sparrow (his mark).
"Test: David Casebier, Nancy (X)
Lincoln (her mark).

"Indiana State & County of Spencer. Sct."

Nancy Lincoln's Mark

The fact that Lincoln's mother made her mark instead of writing her own name is the first observation of importance. While this is not absolute proof that she could not write, it contributes much to that supposition. Thousands of pioneers who could read their Bibles, other books, and newspapers had little need of the art of writing, which they did not learn. The only other signature of Lincoln's mother known to exist is on a deed signed in 1814 in which she joins with her husband in conveying the title to the land they owned on Mill Creek in Kentucky. On this occasion, also, she made her mark.

A Hoosier Woman

As far as is known there has not been available, before the discovery of the Sparrow will, a duly authorized document which would establish the residence of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in

the State of Indiana. Although no one has ever questioned the fact that she resided in the Hoosier State and that she lies buried in what is now Spencer County, her name on the will of Thomas Sparrow becomes an exceedingly valuable exhibit of proof, and from the viewpoint of the documentary historian supplies an authoritative source of the very greatest importance.

The Date of Mrs. Lincoln's Death

Apparently it was not until 1851, after his father had passed away, that Abraham Lincoln entered in the family Bible the date of his mother's death. Whether it was copied from some record or recalled from memory is not known, but the date of the Sparrow will and the dates on the record of probate, which is also inscribed on the early manuscript, seem to confirm the family record as to the approximate date of Nancy Lincoln's death.

That Mrs. Lincoln was living on September 21, 1818, is evident from her signature on the document bearing that date. Evidently she was not available for testimony as to the validity of the will on October 9, 1818, at the time the will was probated, or she would have been summoned by the clerk. This would place the date of her death between September 21, 1818, and October 9, 1818. Abraham Lincoln wrote in the family Bible:

"Nancy Lincoln, wife of Thomas Lincoln, died October 5, 1818."

The Death of Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow and Mrs. Lincoln

The story of Nancy Lincoln's death has usually been associated with the passing of Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow. The story in part, as related by Herndon, follows:

"Early in October of the year, 1818, Thomas and Betsy Sparrow fell ill of the disease (milk sick) and died within a few days of each other . . . Meanwhile Abe's mother had also fallen a victim to the insidious disease. Her sufferings, however, were destined to be of brief duration. Within a week she too rested from her labors. She 'struggled on day by day,' says one of the household, 'a good Christian woman, and died on the seventh day after she was taken sick.'

Just one week after the will was made, on September 28, 1818, Thomas Carter made oath that he was "a bystander and heard the same (the will) acknowledged." It is likely that it was on this day that Thomas Sparrow passed away. On October 5, 1818, just one week after the previous date, David Casebier, who had joined with Nancy Lincoln in witnessing the will,

made oath that Thomas Sparrow was of sound mind when he made the will. It may be observed that this oath was made on the same day that Mrs. Lincoln died.

Between the dates of September 21 and October 5 Elizabeth Sparrow, wife of Thomas, passed away, all of which is in harmony with the general details of the family tradition.

The Beneficiary

There are affidavits in Hardin County, Kentucky, which grew out of the settlement of Thomas Sparrow's estate, which affirm that Thomas and his wife had no children of their own and that Dennis Hanks became the heir to their property. The newly discovered will supports this affidavit, as Dennis Hanks is named as the only beneficiary after the death of Mrs. Sparrow.

There is no doubt about the relationship between Dennis Hanks and the Sparrow family, as we have the former's own statement to the effect that he was the illegitimate child of Nancy Hanks (not to be confused with Lincoln's mother), a sister of Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow, and that he was brought up by his foster parents, Thomas Sparrow and wife.

Mrs. Lincoln's Relation to the Sparrows

Herndon claims that "Nancy Hanks, the mother of the President, at a very early age was taken from her mother Lucy,—afterwards married to Henry Sparrow—and sent to live with her aunt and uncle, Thomas and Betsy Sparrow." There are those who may feel that her signature as a witness on the will of Thomas Sparrow would contribute to the reliability of the above conclusion. If the Sparrows had reared Nancy Hanks Lincoln from childhood, as Herndon alleged, or as Lamon, who used the Herndon manuscripts states, "that they were the only parents she ever knew," the place to look for her name would be among the beneficiaries, instead of among the witnesses to the will.

The fact that she was not named in the will supports the well-established claim that no such relation existed between the Sparrows and Nancy Lincoln as has been alleged. Although she may have been directly related to Mrs. Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow through her father and also to Thomas Sparrow by her own mother's marriage to Henry Sparrow, brother of Thomas, no conclusion may be drawn from her name as a witness on the will, that Thomas and Elizabeth were her foster parents.

C.J. Nov. 29, 1936

Paper Signed With X Indicates Nancy Lincoln Unable to Write

Rockport, Ind., Nov. 28—Yel-
lowed with age, and its writing
dimmed by the years, a document
discovered in the Spencer Coun-
ty Court House here indicates
that Nancy Hanks Lincoln,
mother of Abraham Lincoln, was
unable to write.

The biographers who speak of
how Nancy Hanks Lincoln pains-
takingly led the boy Lincoln into
the first paths of learning, appar-
ently err to a certain extent.
However, the mother of Lincoln
may have been able to read if not
write.

The revealing document is the
will of Thomas Sparrow, who also
signed his name with an X. The
will was recorded October 9, 1818,
just two weeks before Mrs. Lin-
coln's death of "milk sickness" at
her wilderness home in Spencer
County.

"Her Mark" Appears.

Between the words Nancy and
Lincoln, an X in her own hand
writing appears, with the words
"her mark" as evidence that she
could not then, at the age of 35,
write her own name.

Nancy Hanks and David Case-
bier had appeared at the Court
House as witnesses to the will of
Thomas Sparrow, October 9, 1818.
The will reads:

This twenty-first day of Sep-

tember in the year Eighteen Hun-
dred and Eighteen, Thomas Spar-
row is in his perfect sences on
this date above mentioned that all

X Signature By Nancy Lincoln Is On Old Paper

Brittle Yellow Document Found By W.P.A. Work- ers In Rockport.

(Continued from First Page.)

the goods and chattles that the
above mentiond Thomas Sparrow
has is to belong to his wife, Eliza-
beth Sparrow, so that she can do
as she pleases with it untill her
death and after her death the
whole of the property above men-
tioned is to fall to Dennis Hanks
when he comes to age and that
the above Th Sparrow has made
Chois of Thomas Carter to be his
executor of his Effects above
written this from under my hand
and seal.

His
Thomas X Sparrow
Mark

test

David Casebier

Her
Nancy X Lincoln
Mark

(Seal.)

Clerk's Record Below.

Below this, on the same page,
appears the record of John Mor-
gan, clerk, in certifying the will.
It reads:

"I, John Morgan, clerk of the
Circuit Court of Spencer County
do certify that the within writing,
purporting to be the last will and
testament of Thomas Sparrow was
proven by David Casebier, one of
the subscribing witnesses, and
Thomas Carter, who was a by-
stander, and heard the same ac-
knowledged who made path to the
same. Thomas Carter on the
28th day of September, 1818, &
David Casebier on the 5th day of
October, 1818, who states that the
testor was of sound mind and
memory and that I have caused
the same to be recorded in my
office this 9th day of Octo-
ber, 1818.

JOHN MORGAN S. C. C. C."

Along the margin of the page
was written the following nota-
tion: "Recorded the 9th day of
October, 1818, by me, John Mor-
gan, Clk."

Sparrow Brother-In-Law.

Thomas Sparrow was a brother-
in-law of Nancy Hanks Lincoln
and had come with his wife,
Elizabeth "Betsy" Hanks Sparrow,
to Spencer County from their
Kentucky home in 1817. They
brought with them Dennis Hanks,
young cousin of Nancy and Eliza-
beth, and it was he to whom Spar-
row had willed his money follow-
ing his wife's death. Dennis Hanks
lived with the Lincoln family for
many years.

W.P.A. workers, renovating files
in the Court House, found this
document among others in a bun-
dle of papers brittle with age.
How it happened to be preserved
is not known.

The first Spencer County rec-
ords were kept at the home of
Azel W. Dorsey, where court ses-
sions were held until a log Court
House was built. Later a brick
building was used as a Court
House, but this was destroyed by
fire in 1833 and most of the rec-
ords were lost in this fire. Two
brick Court Houses followed this
one, and records were transferred
from old to new buildings, finding
their way to the present building
which was erected in 1919.

Book Has Ten Pages.

The Sparrow will is in the
"Probate Book." This was made of
foolscap, ten sheets being sewed
together with heavy linen thread,
making a total of ten pages. In
this small book are probate rec-
ords from April, 1818, until April,
15, 1825.

The last writing in this probate
record book is that of Judge John
Pitcher, who in 1825 was clerk
of Spencer County.

As a lad, Abraham Lincoln often
walked the seventeen miles from
his father's home, where Lincoln
City now stands, to Judge Pitch-
er's ofice to borrow books.

The Letter Shop

MABEN JONES PROPRIETOR

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120 TAYLOR STREET
Columbia S.C.

November 19, 1936

November 21, 1936.

P. Louis de Marne, Inspector,
Lincoln National Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. Maben Jones
My dear Mr. Murray,
Columbia, South Carolina

Your interesting letter to my dear Mr. Jones is sincerely appreciated and it is with pleasure that I send you a copy of the old church history.

While recently visiting in Blackstone, Virginia, I was shown a history of the Happ Creek Church which you had had copied from a story by Mr. Foster. I kindly looked up William Irvin for me at Finsbury. In our exchange of letters, I learned of the history of the Creek Church and was told that a copy was in one of the copies of this history available and Clark Bullock, Lynchburg, if so, at what price? and this old man from Dr. Clark had made some improvements which I placed in a number of libraries and sent to you. Do you know whether or not there still exists any official record book of the Happ Creek Church or the original records of the Church or whether or not at the time William Irvin wrote his history in 1864 he then had access to a record of the Church?

I was also informed that a Mr. Foster, an Elder in the Creek Church and now dead, had gathered information you may be interested in. Dr. Clark was able to give me on this question, and also Dr. McRae, who is interested in gathering further data. I mention this so that you may write to all of them if you very truly yours. I have not been in touch with them for several years.

In case of Mr. Foster's letters by accident, a copy of the old records were never taken into the new Director office of the County, and were left in a room in the old clerks office that is now being used by the Board of Education as a storage room for junk, consequently most older records are very hard to locate, and are not preserved in any and a great many of them have been gnawed by rats and eaten by worms. This distressed us very much so I wrote to the Sheriff, President of Hampden-Sydney College, and he in turn wrote to the Mayor who the Circuit Judge has ordered the old papers taken to the new building. I mention this as I am of the opinion that much valuable data is yet to be obtained from these old sources.

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1207 TAYLOR STREET

Columbia. S. C.

November 21, 1936.

Mr. Louis C. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Mr. Warren:

Your interesting letter of the 19th is sincerely appreciated and it is with pleasure that I send you a copy of the Hat Creek history.

On enquiring in Campbell county for Jones data I got in touch with Mr. J. H. Foster, of Brookneal, Virginia, in 1933, and he very kindly looked up some records for me at Rustburg. In our exchange of letters I learned of the history of Hat Creek church and was told that a copy was in possession of Dr. J. Paulette Clark, Clark Building, Lynchburg, Virginia. I borrowed this old paper from Dr. Clark and made some mimeographed copies which I placed in a number of libraries and sent a quantity to Dr. R. L. McNair, Brookneal, who supplies the pulpit at old Hat Creek. I was informed that the original records of the church had been burned so I presume this is the old ^{est} record in existence.

I was also informed that a Mr. Asher, an Elder in Hat Creek church and now dead, had gathered some other records of the old church, and Dr. Clark wrote me that he and his daughter, and also Dr. McNair, were interested in gathering further data. I mention this so that you may write to all of them if you wish to do so. I have not been in touch with them for several years.

In one of Mr. Foster's letters he stated: "....a lot of the old records were never moved into the new Clerk's office of the county, and were left in a room in the old clerk's office that is now being used by our School Board as a storage room for junk, consequently these older records are very hard to locate, and are now covered in dust and a great many of them have been gnawed by rats and eaten by worms." This distressed me very much so I wrote to Dr. Eggleston, President of Hampden Sydney College, and he in turn took up the matter with the Circuit Judge who ordered the old papers placed in the new building. I mention this as I am of the opinion that much valuable data is yet to be gathered from these old papers.

The Letter Shop

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1207 TAYLOR STREET
Columbia. S. C.

- 2 -

I am sure you are familiar with the old Deed for 90 acres of land conveyed to Abraham Hanks by the Trustees of Hat Creek Church--- John Irvin, John Marshall, Publius Jones and Nathaniel Rodgers. Also the Deed between "Thomas Hanks and Nancy, his wife, of the county of Pittsylvania, and the heirs of Publius Jones, Jr."

Please pardon this too long letter. I am eager to aid in anyway possible the noble work you are doing.

There will be no charge for the Hat Creek history. I am only too glad to have a copy of it in your files.

If you have for distribution a family chart showing the ancestors of Lincoln, I shall be pleased to have a copy.

With all good wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Maben Jones
Maben Jones

November 25, 1936

Mr. Maben Jones
The Letter Shop
Columbia, S. C.

My dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you very much for your very interesting letter of November 21 with reference to the Hatt Creek Church and I will look with pleasure to receiving the copies which you are sending.

Although our early bulletins referring to the Hanks and Shipley families are now out of print, I am having some photostats made for you which I am glad to attach to this letter.

Considerable work has been done on trying to locate the family of Nancy Hanks in the Hatt Creek Church community but we very much need some authentic record which will show just who her father was and which will furthermore suggest that she was born in the vicinity of Hatt Creek.

I believe if we will put enough people to work on this matter that eventually we will be able to discover some documents which will throw a new insight on Lincoln's maternal grandparents. My own thought is that she was the daughter of James and Lucy Shipley Hanks.

We thank you again for your fine spirit of cooperation.

Very truly yours

LAW:LH

Director

THE FIVE MOTHERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BY J. B. WATKINS

Henderson, N. C.—In the "Dionne sisters" we have the unusual, but natural event of five children to one mother, but what are we to say to the order being reversed, and having five mothers claimed for one child? Over fifteen hundred biographies have been written of Abraham Lincoln, but with all the writing and research, the question "Who was Nancy Hanks" is still unsettled.

Records prove that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married at Springfield, Washington Co., Ky., on June 12th 1806, Rev. Jesse Head performing ceremony. The marriage bond to secure license was filed June 10th, signed by Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry.

What a pity this record was not found until several years after the death of Abraham Lincoln! One explanation is that "Thomas and Nancy" moved around so much during the next few years, so that I understand eight places are claimed to be the birthplace of Abraham. They had three children, the first being Sarah, next Abraham born Feb. 12th 1809, the third a son who died young.

In 1816 they moved to Indiana, where Nancy died the following year of "milk-sick" fever. Thomas Lincoln married again a few months, but had no children by the second wife.

Here are five stories I have found, perhaps there are more.

Write for picture if wanted
of
Marker at Mineral Co. W. Va.

Story No. 1: James Hanks married Lucy Shipley in Virginia, where he died. His widow went with her father-in-law Joseph Hanks and others to Mineral Co. West Virginia, fourteen miles south of Keyser, where Nancy was born in 1782, a few weeks after her father's death. The West Virginia Historical Society has put a marker at this place.

Williams & Mary Magazine has statement that "Hanks were Quakers residing in Rockingham Co., Va., and Joseph Hanks went with John Lincoln and others to the Shenandoah Valley."

Story No. 2. Lucy Hanks, with her uncle Dick Hanks and others, moved from Virginia to near Belmont, Gaston Co. N. C., where it is claimed Nancy was born. A few years later they moved two counties westward to one mile from Bostic, Rutherford Co. N. C., where Nancy worked in the home of Abraham Ensloe, while her sister Mandy worked in the home of Mr. Pratt.

Ensloe's daughter Nancy married

and went to Kentucky, and Nancy Hanks later went to her home.

The North Carolina Historical Society has put markers at both of these places, the last one being called "Lincoln Hill."

Story No. 3. In Anderson Co. S. C., is claimed that when Nancy was ten or twelve years old, her parents, Matthew and Nancy (Ann) Powell Hanks moved from Virginia to ten miles southeast of Anderson, S. C. That Nancy was employed in the tavern of Christopher Orr. That she married Thomas Lincoln here, Abraham was born here, and they later moved to Kentucky! A monument is at this place too, making four I have listed.

Story No. 4. Is the writers claim to Nancy.

Court records are that William Hanks from Dinwiddie Co., Va., in 1768, bought land five miles north of Henderson, N. C. This is now Vance County, was then part of Granville County. This land, around eight hundred acres, was left to sons Wm. Jr., and Elijah.

The middle son, Argil, married June 20th, 1783, the daughter of what was then and is today, a rich, proud, aristocratic family, that, like most families of this border section, had moved over from Virginia. In talking with his law partner, Abraham Lincoln stated that his mothers people were poor and humble family of Virginia, but he believed there was some unknown ancestry that gave his great intellect, and "all that he was he owed to his mother." This family could easily have been that "unknown ancestry." Argil and Frances lived on the Virginia border, the State line being northern boundary, 122 acres, sixteen miles north of Henderson. Here were born during next thirteen years, nine children, Nancy the oldest, would be in 1784 (which is generally accepted as about correct date for Nancy of Ky.).

Their log house, with two large oak trees on north, is standing today, only many years ago it was enlarged, and all weatherboarded.

Write for picture if wanted
of
"Childhood Home of Nancy Hanks
in Vance Co., N. C."

In 1796, they moved three miles south to a 317 acre farm, which is today called "Hanks Place". A Negro, Ed Hanks lives there now, doubtless he is a descended of the Hanks servants. The old house was burned several years ago.

In 1797, Argil Hanks died and the division of his estate gives to widow Frances and daughter Nancy, together,

er, 2 Negroes, 1 Red Heifer and Calf, 1 Bull, 1 young Bay Horse, 11 hogs &c value 122 Pounds. Then gives several more Negroes and other items to the other eight children in pairs.

So instead of being "poor and humble", our Hanks were well off and as genteel, and Nancy had as good an education as any of her time. William Hanks, Jr. also died 1797, leaving a widow Sarah, and one son, so Nancy may have stayed at her Aunt Sarah's and attended Springer College, a mile away. Which caused her to name her first child "Sarah" in Ky.

Tradition here is that around 1803, Nancy went with some friends to Salisbury, N. C., from which place she went on to Kentucky, married Thomas Lincoln &c.

That having a hard life in Kentucky, because of her great family pride, she would not talk about her rich people back home.

Story No. 5. In 1747 Abraham Hawkes and wife Lucy were granted 284 acres in Amelia Co. Va., in corner of Amelia, Nottoway and Dinwiddie Counties, and there are records of the Hawkes family down to the present time in these counties.

But around 1770, some of these seem to change name to Hanks, Richard, James and wife Nancy, &c all owning these same lands, so that the Amelia Clerk of Court states that many investigators have decided that Hanks were first Hawkes, and that all these stories are about descendants of above Abraham and Lucy scattering south and west, and that here Abraham Lincoln got his name.

However one writer says Benjamin Hanks came to Mass. from England in 1699, and a son William Hanks moved to Virginia with twelve children.

Also that Thomas Lincoln's father was named Abraham, and was a brother-in-law to the celebrated Daniel Boone, so that Abraham Lincoln was named for his grandfather. This Abraham Lincoln was Capt. of Militia in Rockingham Co. Va. 1776—so President A. L. could have joined the Sons of Revolution!

A story, "The True Nancy Hanks" is that Nancy was born in Amelia Co. Va., and went with her father to Kentucky in 1785.

But every writer of every story claims his is the "only true and correct one", and gets offended if any doubts are expressed, so only thing I see left is to say that Abraham Lincoln was so great a man that it took five mothers to produce him!

Even Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director Lincoln Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind. states he doesn't yet know, only he has rejected a couple of these I have written, and the strongest tradition is to Story No. 1. I wish to thank Dr. Warren for looking over this story and some assistance.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 479

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 13, 1938

THE RELATIVES OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER

The names of the relatives of Lincoln's mother appearing in this bulletin are listed on the assumption that Nancy Hanks was the only child of James and Lucy Shipley Hanks.

Parents

Hanks, (James) Died before 1790
Son of Joseph and Nancy Hanks
Hanks, Lucy Shipley (1765-1825)
Daughter of Robert and Sarah Shipley

Step Father

Sparrow, Henry 1765-1841

Half brothers and sisters
(*Children of Henry and Lucy Sparrow*)

Sparrow, James
Married (1) Parthenia Vanderven-
try (2) Nancy Hineman
Sparrow, Thomas
Married (1) Sally Smith (2) Mary
Smith
Sparrow, Henry 1802-1881
Married Ailsy Smith 1805-1895
Sparrow, George
Married Susan Ingram
Franklin, Elizabeth Sparrow
Married Claiborn Franklin
Campbell, Lucinda or "Lucy," Sparrow
Married James Campbell
Ingram, Margaret or "Peggy" Spar-
row
Married William Ingram
Whitehouse, Mary or "Polly" Sparrow
Married Benjamin Whitehouse

Uncles and Aunts, Maternal Line

Shipley, Robert, Jr.
Son of Robert and Sarah Shipley.
Shipley, Rachel
Daughter of Michael and ? Prewitt.
Berry, Richard, Sr.
Berry, Rachel Shipley
Daughter of Robert and Sarah
Shipley
Mitchell, Robert
Son of Daniel and Mary Mitchell
Mitchell, Naomi Shipley (1748-?)
Daughter of Robert and Rachel
Shipley.
Shipley, George
Son of Robert and Rachel Shipley
Shipley, ?
Daughter of (Michael) and ?
Prewitt
McCord, David (1744)-(1816)
McCord, Ann Shipley (1740)-(1828)
Daughter of Robert and Sarah
Shipley
Sloan, Robert
Sloan, Margaret Shipley
Daughter of Robert and Sarah
Shipley
Married second husband, Mathew
Armstrong
Uncles and Aunts, Paternal Line
Hanks, Thomas
Son of Joseph and Nancy Hanks

Hanks, Joshua
Son of Joseph and Nancy Hanks
Hanks, William
Son of Joseph and Nancy Hanks
Hanks, Elizabeth Hall
The mother married (2) Caleb
Hazel
Sparrow, Thomas ?-1818
Son of James W. and Mary Spar-
row
Sparrow, Elizabeth Hanks ?-1818
Daughter of Joseph and Nancy
Hanks
Friend, Jesse
Son of Isaac Friend
Friend, Mary (Polly) Hanks
Daughter of Joseph and Nancy
Hanks
Hall, Levi
Brother of Elizabeth Hall Hanks
Hall, Nancy Hanks
Daughter of Joseph and Nancy
Hanks
Hanks, Charles
Son of Joseph and Nancy Hanks
Hanks, Joseph 1781-1856
Son of Joseph and Nancy Hanks
Hanks, Mary Young ?-1872
Daughter of John and Susanna
Young

Cousins, Maternal Line

(*Children of Richard and Rachel Berry*)

Brumfield, Joanna Berry
Married James Brumfield
Brumfield, Sarah
Pitman, Rachel Berry
Married Thomas Pitman
Berry, Richard, Jr.
Married Polly Ewing
Berry, Francis
Married Elizabeth
Mitchell, Jane
Married Daniel Mitchell
Berry, Edward
Married Polly Brazelton
(*Children of Robert and Sarah Mitchell*)

Mitchell, John 1798-1853
Married Judith Bass
Mitchell, Daniel
Married Jean Berry ?-1852
Mitchell, Robert
Thompson, Sarah Mitchell 1773-1855
Married John Thompson
(*Children of Matthew and Margaret Armstrong*)

Armstrong, Matthew, Jr.
(*Children of George and ? Shipley*)
Shipley, Edward
(*Children of David and Ann McCord*)
McCord, William 1766-1824
Married Jane Moore
Campbell, Sarah McCord
Married James Campbell
McCord, Robert 1770-1840
Married Pamelia Harris

McCord, John, 1773-1846
Married Jane Reid
McCord, David 1781-1852
Married Dorcas Roseborough
Elder, Ann Shipley 1782-1855
Married Alexander Elder
McCord, James 1785-1873
Married Margaret Summers
Elder, Rosa Shipley 1788-1812
Second wife of Alexander Elder
McCord, Mary (Polly) 1790-1836
Never married

Cousins, Paternal Line

(*Children of William and Elizabeth Hanks*)

Hanks, James 1794-1852
Married Rebecca, daughter of Ben-
jamin and Mary Martin Atherton
Meador, Elizabeth Hanks
Married Jubal Meador
Robbins, Nancy Hanks
Married Jacob Robbins
Hanks, Charles ?-1852
Married Hannah Martin
Hanks, William 1804-1900
Married Elizabeth Kanatyar
Hanks, Celia
Hanks, Joseph
Hanks, John 1802-1889
Married Susan Malinda Wilson
Douglas, Lucinda Hanks 1813-1890
Married Thomas Douglas
Brown, Sarah Hanks
Hanks, Andrew Jackson
(*Children of Levi and Nancy Hall*)
Hanks, Dennis 1799-1892
Son of Nancy Hanks Hall. Married
Elizabeth, daughter of Daniel and
Sarah Bush Johnston
Hall, Squire
Married Matilda, daughter of Dan-
iel and Sarah Bush Johnston
Hall, William
Married Mary Ann, daughter of Jo-
seph and Mary Young Hanks
Hall, James
Married Caroline, daughter of Jo-
seph and Mary Young Hanks.

(*Children of Joseph and Mary Hanks*)

Hanks, Jacob Vertrees 1812-1894
Married Elizabeth Adams
Kirkpatrick, Elizabeth Hanks 1813-
1839
Married James Kirkpatrick
Hanks, Susanna 1816-?
Hosier, Nancy Hanks 1818-1890
Married William Hosier
Hanks, John Henry 1822-?
Married Emma Atkison
Hanks, Joseph 1825-?
Married Martha Bartholemew
Hall, Mary Ann Hanks 1827-?
Married William, son of Levi and
Nancy Hanks Hall
Loper, Amaltha Hanks 1830-1849
Married Henry Loper
Hanks, Isabelle 1833-?
Hall, Caroline Hanks 1836-?
Married James, son of Levi and
Nancy Hanks Hall

Nancy Hanks & Sarah Bush

Two Interpretations Of Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry

By MILDRED W. CRANSTON

(Condensed from "The Mother of Lincoln", an address given by Mrs. Cranston at the annual Lincoln memorial supper given by Dr. and Mrs. Watchorn, the evening of February 13, 1937).

There have been two tendencies in regard to the interpretation of Abraham Lincoln's Hanks ancestors. One has been to term them "poor, shiftless and migratory"; the other has been typified by Mrs. Caroline Hitchcock who clothes them in regal garments.



MRS. MILDRED CRANSTON

The truth concerning the family of Lincoln's mother lies somewhere between these two extremes.

Lincoln's maternal great grandfather was Joseph Hanks of Virginia, a respectable but ordinary Virginian. His great grandmother, Joseph's wife, was Ann Lee, a fact which made Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee distant cousins. This Hanks family had nine children, one of whom, Lucy Hanks, the oldest, was the mother of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother.

Nancy Hanks was born in late 1783 or 1784. She lived her earliest years with her mother, grandparents, uncles and aunts, several of whom were not much older than herself.

Nancy Hanks, born in tragedy, was after her earliest years brought up by an uncle and aunt,

who, childless, gave her such training as was customary for girls in those days. They must have been a kindly pair, for they sheltered also the waif, Dennis Hanks, son of Lucy's younger sister.

ABRAHAM IS BORN

Nancy Hanks married Thomas Lincoln June 12, 1806, in Washington County, Kentucky, in a ceremony performed by Jesse Head, a Methodist minister. The couple settled first in Elizabethtown where Sarah, Abraham's older sister, was born in 1807. Later the little family removed to Hardin county where Abraham was born, February 12, 1809.

As for the circumstances surrounding the birth of Abraham Lincoln, Aunt Peggy Walters was there, and she told later of Lincoln's anxiety for his wife, and their great rejoicing that this second child was a boy. They named him for Thomas' own father, another Abraham, killed many years before by the Indians.

Lincoln says of this mother, "She was highly intellectual by nature, had a strong memory, accurate judgment and was cool and heroic." In appearance she was tall, dark haired, grey-eyed, with a prominent forehead and an angular face. She seems to have been gentle, capable, strong and generally cheerful, although various witnesses have spoken of the sadness of her face in repose and occasional melancholy.

EARLY TRAGEDY

Not long after the family moved to Indiana, when Lincoln was nine and his sister only 11, an epidemic of "milk-sick", a disease caused by a milk infection acquired through the eating of snakeroot by the cattle, spread through the little community of settlers. The aunt and uncle who had raised Nancy died, and, after an illness of six days, Nancy Lincoln herself succumbed.

The crude burial characteristic of those days took place almost immediately. Thomas himself making the coffin. Weeks later an itinerant preacher, David Edkins, read the service over her grave. As in the case of Lincoln's birthplace, the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln is now protected with a handsome monument.

Lincoln said of her in after years, "All that I am or hope to be I owe to her." He may have underestimated the qualities, not inconsiderable, which he inherited from his father. Yet it is doubt-

(Continued on Page 4)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1937

Two Interpretations Of Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry

(Continued from Page 3)
less true that from her and her ancestors he inherited his thirst for learning, his physical features, his gentleness to man and beast, and that spirit of melancholy engraved also upon his features which is so characteristic of him.

THE SECOND MOTHER

Any tribute to the mother of Lincoln must be taken in a plural sense, for Lincoln was blessed with two of them. Thomas Lincoln waited a year before he went to Elizabethtown and brought back a stepmother. Sarah Bush Johnston was a widow with three children. Tall, straight, handsome, black-haired and capable, she was destined to play an important role in Lincoln's life. It speaks well for Thomas Lincoln that two such women were willing to marry him, and there is evidence that he was even a man of some property, for he paid off Mrs. Johnston's debts before he took her to Indiana. It must have been rather appalling on both sides when she stepped out of her wagon and was presented to Sarah and Abraham Lincoln and to Dennis Hanks, who was then a member of the Lincoln household; on the side of the children, to have such a dominating figure enter into their lives; on her side to behold the crude cabin and the unkempt children. She insisted that wooden floor be laid at once, that the walls be whitewashed, and, most important, that gourds of soap and water be provided. And the Lincolns were "turned out" and transformed. When that was done she turned herself with interest to her step-children.

Immediately she became very close to young Abraham, encouraged his reading and protected him sometimes from the wrath of Thomas.

Sarah Lincoln deserves the highest credit for discovering and encouraging her stepson's abilities. Her own son was later to attempt to cheat her shamefully, an act prevented by Abraham himself. In after years she said of the two of them:

"Both were good boys but I shall say of Abraham, he never gave me a cross word. He was the best boy that ever lived."

And he, in his turn, respected and honored her. He died in 1865, and she in 1869.

TWO INHERITANCES

From his first mother, one might say, Lincoln received the basic traits and capabilities of his character. From his second mother he was provided with the only conditions of environment which encouraged him to improve those gifts. The wrong kind of stepmother, or none at all, might have made him into a good rail-splitter or an indifferent storekeeper satisfied with his lot; a man quite satisfied to sit on a cracker barrel in New Salem and while away his hours telling stories. Nancy Hanks and Sarah Bush Johnston between them brought forth a man who, at 21 was ready to face the world and contribute something to the making of his country.

"I would like it said of me that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower when I thought a flower would grow."—Lincoln.

Chicago Tribune, 2-22-40

Cites a Relative to

*Prove Nancy Hanks
Made Lincoln Great*

Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, who is 93 years old and a historian, yesterday told the Aaron Miner chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution that Lincoln owed his greatness to his mother, Nancy Hanks. And Mrs. Gridley, who lives at 1549 East 61st street, offered some first hand information from relatives on the subject.

She recalled an interview with Dennis Hanks, a cousin of Lincoln.

"You needn't be scratching about among the Lincolns for greatness," Hanks told Mrs. Gridley in the interview in Paris, Ill., in 1891. At that time Mr. Hanks was 92 years old.

Mrs. Gridley's talk drew heavily upon information supplied her by Hanks.

Mrs. Gridley related the tradition that Nancy Hanks, an illegitimate child, was the daughter of a southern gentleman, but said that Lincoln was never able to learn his mother's paternity.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 688

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 15, 1942

KENTUCKY'S MOST IMPORTANT WEDDING

Universally noted for her beautiful women, it follows that Kentucky has been the scene of many important weddings where prominent, influential and wealthy men have been united in marriage to the belles of the Blue Grass state. No nuptial vows have thus far been performed in Kentucky which have proven to be of more importance than the rites which pronounced Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, husband and wife.

This year marks the sesquicentennial of Kentucky's statehood which has resulted in many celebrations in commemoration of the anniversary. Some of the counties formed in 1792, the same year the state was established, are enjoying a double anniversary. Among these smaller units is Washington County where the marriage of Lincoln's parents took place. To further emphasize the anniversary feature the celebration in Washington County was held on June 12, the day on which the wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks occurred. The editor of *Lincoln Lore* was one of the speakers on this occasion.

It is doubtful if the incidents associated with any wedding have been and still are the subject of more controversy. It is to be regretted that due to the wide significance and international importance of this event that it could not have been left in the simplicity of its original setting. It was first advocated that the wedding never took place and that the parents of Lincoln lived as common-law husband and wife. With this objection removed by the discovery of the marriage papers, the bride was then pictured as a waif, the illegitimate child of an unworthy woman. This tradition still survives regardless of the preponderance of documentary evidence against it.

The groom who seldom figures very much in the recitals of a wedding episode has come in for his full share of attention and until recent documentary discoveries about his economic status he was given the roll of a roving vagabond of the "poor white trash," who was willing to go through the wedding ceremony for a financial consideration.

Richard Berry, who signed the marriage bond as guardian of the bride, was called just a by-stander in the court house where Thomas Lincoln secured the papers. Even the Reverend Jesse Head who performed the ceremony was looked upon as a fictitious character by some.

The identity of the home in which Thomas and Nancy were married is still in dispute and it is claimed they lived there for a space of two years and a half, leaving the implication that Thomas Lincoln was not able to provide a home for the woman he had married.

The limited space in an issue of *Lincoln Lore* for discussing such questions as those raised here have naturally been assigned to the Foundation's other publication, *The Lincoln Kinsman*. However, a brief summary of court records which deal directly or indirectly with the Lincoln-Hanks wedding ceremonies is made available here.

The Groom's Wedding Outfit

Thomas Lincoln purchased on May 3, 1806 at Bleakley-Montgomery's store in Elizabethtown, Kentucky for three shillings "one-half calf skin" presumably for his wedding boots. On May 16 at the same store he purchased a large bill of goods including cloth for his wedding suit. Four days later another lot of merchandise was purchased containing 3 yards of coating, brown Holland cloth, red flannel, buttons, skeins of silk, etc.

Decorating the Bridal Carriage

Having taken care of his own wedding outfit he purchased of the Elizabethtown merchants a "tipt bridle" for his horse which cost him "13 shillings 6 pence," over three dollars. Certainly he owned a good saddle and on the same horse, behind the groom, the bride would find a seat.

Cash for Wedding Expenses

The prospective bridegroom on May 22, three weeks before the wedding, drew from his surplus credit at Bleakley-Montgomery store the sum of "\$112.70."

Guests and Attendants

Previous to 1806 four of the Widow Lincoln's children had married into Washington County families and the wedding of her youngest son Thomas, would be of general interest to a large number of the groom's kinsfolk. The senior Berry's niece, the bride Nancy Hanks, had a great many relatives in the surrounding country. There were also Shipley, Mitchell and McCord cousins, and some small half-brothers and half-sisters of the bride in the adjacent Doctor's Fork community. Nancy's cousin and girlhood companion, Sarah Shipley Mitchell, who was bridesmaid, would be the special guest.

Bride's Cousin A Bondsman

Thomas Lincoln was in Washington County at least two days before the wedding as on June 10, 1806 he signed the following bond with Richard Berry as bondsman.

"Know all men by these presents that we Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry are held and firmly bound . . . that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended between the above bound Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks for which a license has been issued . . .

"Witness
"John H. Parrott.
Thomas Lincoln
Richard Berry
"Garden."

The Presiding Minister

The authority of Rev. Jesse Head to conduct a marriage ceremony for Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks and pronounce them husband and wife is found in this Washington County Court Order for February 7, 1803: "On the motion of Jesse Head, a minister of the gospel of the Methodist Episcopal Church who made the oath, a testimonial is granted him to solemnize the rites of marriage on his giving bond . . ."

The Wedding Day

Traditions still extant claim that the Judge and lawyers of the court, then in session at Springfield, attended the Lincoln-Hanks marriage ceremony and wedding festivities. The editor of *Lincoln Lore* discovered in the Washington Circuit Court Order Book for June, 1806, that the court convened on Monday, June 9, Tuesday, June 10, Wednesday, June 11, although on Thursday, June 12, the wedding day, it was not in session, but again resumed business on Friday, June 13. Richard Berry, guardian of the bride, was serving on a jury in the court. Mordecai Lincoln, oldest brother of the groom, had a lawsuit being tried in which he was the defendant, and Jesse Head, as a justice of the peace, also had business in court. Kentucky's most important wedding was even then of sufficient significance to cause the adjournment of the court for the day of the wedding, June 12, 1806.

The Marriage Consummated

The marriage returns of Rev. Jesse Head, among others noted, contain this entry: "Washington County—I do certify that the following is a true list of marriages solemnized by me the subscriber. . . . Joined in the Holy Estate of Matrimony agreeable to the rules of M. E. C. . . .

"June 12, 1806 Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

"Jesse Head, P. M. E. C."

"At Home" In Elizabethtown

Two days after the wedding, on June 14, 1806, Thomas Lincoln purchased at the Bleakley-Montgomery store, in the village of Elizabethtown where he had taken his wife, "a half set of knives and forks" at five shillings and "three skeins of silk" for which he paid two shillings and three pence. The parents of Abraham Lincoln were then "at home" to their many friends and kinsmen.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 832

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

March 19, 1945

THE LINCOLN MOTHER CONTROVERSY

A contribution to the February 1945 number of the *Reader's Digest*, appearing under the caption, "He Loved Me Truly," pays a well deserved tribute to Sarah Johnston Lincoln, the revered stepmother of the President. While the monograph often approaches fiction, especially in portraying the early home surroundings of the Lincolns in Indiana, and in greatly exaggerating the shortcomings of the father, it is a statement in the postscript, added by one of the *Digest's* editors, which has aroused Lincoln students.

The nine line postscript comment printed in italics concludes with this statement:

"When Abraham Lincoln said, 'All that I am I owe to my angel mother' he was speaking of his stepmother."

The identity of the mother, to whom Lincoln is said to have referred, opens up again a mass of purely traditional data, which, because of its unreliable source, contributes little to the final deductions which can be made. However, the many queries which have come to the Foundation about the mother controversy almost necessitates this discussion.

The Townsend Version

George Alfred Townsend, an accomplished poet, lecturer, and correspondent, visited Springfield, Illinois, on January 24th and 25th, 1867, while on a lecture tour. He interviewed in Springfield, William Herndon, former law partner of Abraham Lincoln. Townsend sent a report of his interview to the *New York Tribune*. Later this article was published in a fifteen page booklet under the caption *The Real Life of Abraham Lincoln*. As far as we can learn this is the earliest publication which attempts to name the individual, who first put in circulation the famous statement Lincoln is said to have made about his mother. It follows:

"The pleasantest of his (Lincoln's) reminiscences were of his mother, to whom he imputed the best and the brightest qualities he had inherited. He broke out once to Mr. Herndon, as they were returning from court in another county: 'Billy, all I am or can be I owe to my angel-mother'."

The Hart Version

Charles H. Hart, a Lincoln author with whom Herndon had been in correspondence, read the Townsend account of the Lincoln tribute to his mother and thought it contradicted the unlovely story he had received from Herndon about her. Hart wrote him inquiring about the inconsistency. Herndon replied on March 2, 1867: "When Lincoln spoke to me as he did he had reference to his mother's mind. Nothing else and it was thus I told it."

In 1870 Hart wrote a biographical sketch of Lincoln and after commenting on the death of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, referred to her in part as:

"The mother of whom in after years with tears in his eyes, he (Lincoln) said: 'All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother'."

The Arnold Version

In the paragraph which followed the statement about Nancy Hanks in the Herndon letter of March 2, 1867, he wrote: "Arnold's book is out," but stated he had not read it. Herndon had been corresponding with Arnold and also paid him a visit in Chicago. Arnold may have been the first person to whom Herndon told the mother story. Arnold's book, *Lincoln and Slavery*, although dated in 1866, apparently did not come out until early in 1867. It was probably the first cloth-bound book to carry the traditional Lincoln tribute to his mother. The version by Arnold will be observed in the following lines:

"His (Lincoln's) mother died when he was only ten years of age, but she lived long enough to make a deep and lasting impression upon her son. He ever spoke of her with deep feeling and grateful affection. He said, with his eyes suffused with tears, 'All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother'."

The Leland Version

The Townsend, Hart and Arnold versions, it will be noted, all used the term "angel mother," Townsend even going so far as to make it one word "angel-mother." Even in this early stage of its use there was one Lincoln student, Charles G. Leland, who questioned the identity of the mother. He had also been in correspondence with Herndon very early, and later, in the meantime, had read the Lamon publication which used the Herndon sources and made Nancy Hanks anything but an angel. Leland noted in his book published in 1879:

"When in after years Lincoln spoke of his 'saintly mother' and of his 'angel of a mother' he referred to this noble woman (Sarah Bush Lincoln, the stepmother) who first made him feel like a human being."

The Lamon Version

Ward H. Lamon was the recipient of a letter from Herndon about the mother question on March 6, 1870. In this correspondence is revealed the occasion on which Herndon claimed Lincoln made the famous statement about his mother. It was the incident of the famous buggy ride placed by Herndon about 1851. The story in part follows:

"Lincoln and I had a case in the Menard Circuit Court which required a discussion on heredity, quality of mind, natures, etc. Lincoln's mind was dwelling on this case, mine on something else. Lincoln, all at once, said, 'Billy, I'll tell you something, but keep it a secret while I live.' Herndon then claims that Lincoln told him among other discreditable things about the Hanks family, that his mother was an illegitimate child whose father was a nobleman of Virginia, and after explaining that his mother had inherited the quality of the nobleman and he (Lincoln) inherited these same qualities from his mother, Herndon alleges Lincoln exclaimed:

"All that I am or hope ever to be I get from my mother. God bless her."

The Herndon Version

In the correspondence which Herndon carried on with Jesse M. Weik over a period of years, he admitted on one occasion that he had not made any notes of what Lincoln said to him on the famous alleged buggy ride, but recalled the incident from memory. At least fifteen years had elapsed when he first tried to recall the conversation for Arnold and Townsend. He did write out for Weik, however, on January 19, 1886, this version of the tribute.

"All that I am or hope ever to be I got from my mother. God bless her."

The Weik Version

When the three-volume work of Weik, which appeared in 1889, was completed, the version of the tribute which was undoubtedly approved by Herndon, appeared in this form:

"God bless my mother; all that I am or ever hope to be I owe to her."

It will be observed that in every instance where Herndon himself writes out the quotation the word "angel" never appeared. There has never been any serious doubt in the minds of the great majority of Lincoln students about the identity of the mother to whom Lincoln referred in the traditional tribute—it was his own mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 965

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 6, 1947

AN OCTOBER TRAGEDY

A visit to the grave of Abraham Lincoln's mother in October, the month of her untimely death, invites one to visualize the tragic circumstances under which Nancy Hanks Lincoln was taken from her family. The disease from which she died was known as trembles or milk sickness. It was first identified by the patient showing symptoms of dizziness followed by nausea and persistent vomiting with stomach pains and a burning sensation. The tongue became swollen and the breath very offensive. The patient experienced prostration and collapse, then coma developed and continued until death which often occurred within three days from the time of the attack.

Writers who first observed the havoc caused by this disease referred to it as the "terrible malady" and one informant states "its terrible fatality at one period created a perfect panic in the settlers." Nicolay and Hay in their *Abraham Lincoln A History* published in 1890 make this comment, "In the autumn of 1818 the little community of Pigeon Creek was almost exterminated by a frightful pestilence called the milk sickness or in the dialect of the country, "the milk sick." Mrs. Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow, Mrs. Bruner and two children, were among the dead who were buried in the same cemetery.

Although the disease was usually fatal and often claimed all the members of a family one wonders whether or not the two Lincoln children, Sarah and Abraham, and their father may not have had light cases of the disease. There is some evidence that the removal of the Lincolns from Indiana to Illinois in 1830 was partly due to the return, during the previous fall, of the dreaded trembles. Ten years later, in 1840, the *Providence (R. I.) Journal* carried a story entitled "The Milk Sickness of the West" which was copied in the *Evansville (Ind.) Journal* for Oct. 14, 1840. Some excerpts from this descriptive article follows:

"There is no announcement which strikes the members of a western community with so much dread as the report of a case of milk sickness. The uncertainty and mystery which envelopes its origin, and its fearful and terrible effects upon the victims, and the ruinous consequences upon the valuable property which follows in its train, make it in the eyes of the inhabitants of a district the worst looking foe which can beset their neighborhood. No emigrant enters a region of Southern Indiana, Illinois, or Western Kentucky to locate himself without first making the inquiry if the milk sickness was ever known there and if he has any suspicions that the causes of the disease exist in the vegetable or mineral productions of the earth he speedily quits it. . . . I have passed many a deserted farm where the labors of the emigrant had prepared for himself and family a comfortable home, surrounded with an ample corn and wheat field, and inquired the reason of its abandonment, and learned that the milk sickness had frightened away its tenants and depopulated the neighborhood. . . . I saw this season a number of farms in Perry County, Indiana, lying uncultivated and the houses tenantless which last autumn were covered with corn fields whose gigantic and thrifty stalks overtopped a man's head on horseback."

Perry was the county in which the Lincolns settled and Mrs. Lincoln died a resident of that portion of Perry that was the very year of her death, to become Spencer county.

Not until recent years has medical science been able to give a positive diagnosis with respect to those afflicted with the trembles or milk sickness as it was called. It was originally believed to be derived from a poisonous dew caused by mineral evaporation at night or by poisonous springs contaminated by minerals. That its origin could be traced to malaria or to some micro-organism was also believed. But from the very earliest appearance of the disease there was a belief that the milk of a cow was the medium through which humans contracted the disease. As late as 1890 Nicolay and Hay referring to the disease stated, "It is a mysterious disease" and even then they considered it might be "a malignant form of fever."

It was about 1840 that Dr. Robert C. Holland of Lexington, Kentucky, in a paper read before Transylvania University eliminated the claim that milk sickness was of malarious origin as was often claimed. His preliminary studies of the cause of the disease warranted this conclusion; "The malady in man must be derived from cattle and that the cow does often feed upon the poison and secrete it in her milk. . . . The herb or mineral imparting the poison has not yet been detected. In man the first attacks are accompanied by violent tremblings, dizziness, excessive vomiting and excruciating pains in the epigastrium, medicine has little power over it; if the constitution of the patient be sufficiently robust to withstand the first assault of the disease or the amount of poison imbibed be not sufficient to destroy him he lingers for years in a state of prolonged misery . . . with a cadaverous countenance, sunken eye and sickly complexion. He looks like a risen tenant from the tomb with digestive powers destroyed he is unable to endure food and retains a loathsome disgust for meat and milk."

James Tilton Couch, a chemist for a long time with the Pathological Division, Bureau of Animal Industry has after several years of research reached this conclusion with respect to the cause of the malady. He states the milk sickness or trembles is due to "a poisonous substance, TREMETOL, present in white snake root (EUPATORIUM URTICAEFOLIUM)." He further comments, "The poison is secreted in the milk of animals that have grazed on these plants and such milk is capable of causing the disease in persons."

The Poison Snake Root still grows in the vicinity of the Spencer County home of the Lincolns. Upon a recent visit there one of the citizens of the community, Mr. S. Grant Johnson, had no difficulty in finding a stalk of it which reached almost to the shoulders of the editor of Lincoln Lore as it was photographed by another resident, Ora Brown. The same obnoxious weed might still take the lives of other mothers were cattle still allowed the freedom of the woods in the fall of the year. It is not likely that livestock would graze on it while there is good forage in the fields but it would be consumed only after the pastures had become dry and the cattle seek shade and vegetation in the woods.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 995

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 3, 1948

LINCOLN'S MOTHER — VARIANT DESCRIPTIONS

The approaching Mother's Day again turns our attention to Nancy Hanks Lincoln. A trustworthy description of the mother of the President is not available, and it is doubtful if there will ever be found a dependable word portrait of her. This does not mean that we are lacking for traditional descriptions of Mrs. Lincoln, but the wide diversity of opinion as to how she looked invalidates all of the contributions.

It is not known that any of the many attempts to describe Mrs. Lincoln resulted from interviews with her illustrious son. Photography, which has been our chief medium for refreshing our minds on the stature and facial expression of an ancestor, was not discovered until twenty years after the death of Mrs. Lincoln. Apparently no painting or even a silhouette was ever made of her, which would indelibly impress her image on the mind of a nine-year-old boy so that it would be retained through the forty-two years until he became President.

Those who have written with most assurance about the appearance of Mrs. Lincoln, when subjected to a fair examination about their ability to make personal observations, fail to qualify as dependable witnesses. Others who seem, both chronologically and geographically, to have been in a position to take notice of Lincoln's mother's appearance, apparently had some difficulty, after a lapse of nearly fifty years, to differentiate between the appearance of the actual mother and the step-mother of Abraham Lincoln. Both of the women occupied Thomas Lincoln's cabin within two years of each other and there was also a grown sister of Abraham's, who may have contributed to a composite picture of the women described in Thomas Lincoln's home.

John and Dennis Hanks were in Chicago in June, 1865, less than three months after the President's assassination, exhibiting the old log cabin in which the Lincolns resided when they settled in Illinois. Here they first met William Herndon who talked with them about the early life of Lincoln, and especially about Lincoln's mother. The descriptions of Nancy Hanks Lincoln which grew out of this conversation became the basic source of most of the early biographers. So much dependence has been put upon some of these early variant portraits that a general survey of the validity of the testimonials might be worth while.

A Kentucky Beauty

One of Lincoln's close friends, Isaac N. Arnold, published a life of Lincoln in 1885 in which he states on the authority of John Hanks:

"Mrs. Lincoln, the mother of the President, is said to have been in her youth a woman of beauty."

The writing which Herndon calls "John Hanks' statement," is in reality Herndon's statement of what John Hanks said, written in Herndon's style of composition and credited to Hanks. The description of Mrs. Lincoln follows:

"I knew Mrs. Nancy Lincoln or Nancy Sparrow before her marriage. She was a tall slender woman, dark-skinned, black hair and eyes, her face was sharp and angular, forehead big."

The informant, John Hanks, was but four years old when Nancy married and he lived twenty miles from her home. He could not have had any personal knowledge of how she looked at this time. That very year of the marriage John's parents moved to a place 35 miles from where the Lincolns lived. There is positive evidence in a letter written to John Hanks by Abraham Lincoln on August 24, 1860, that John never visited in the Lincoln home until five years after Lincoln's mother was dead. In other words, John Hanks never saw Lincoln's mother in either Kentucky or Indiana.

A Brunette with Bluish-Green Eyes

Dennis Hanks differed somewhat from his cousin John in the information he is said to have provided Herndon. In the Herndon-Weik papers there is a letter dated, "Sanitary Fair, Chicago, Illinois, June 13, 1865," which is alleged to have been written to Herndon and signed, "your friend D. F. Hanks." Anyone familiar with the spelling and grammar of Dennis and the style of Herndon's writing will immediately conclude it was all written by Herndon, possibly from notes he had before him or from memory. The following description is found in this letter:

"Mrs. Lincoln, Abraham's mother, was five feet eight inches high . . . Her hair was dark brown hair, eyes bluish green—keen and loving. Her weight was one hundred thirty."

Dennis Hanks undoubtedly saw Nancy Hanks, both in Kentucky and Indiana. During the Kentucky residence for most of the period there, the Lincoln home was eight miles from the home of Dennis Hanks and he did not arrive in Indiana until a few months before Nancy passed away and then lived with his foster parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow. When he was called upon by Herndon to describe Nancy she had been dead nearly forty years and without any reason whatever to recall her during this long interval, he could not be too sure about the exact color of her eyes and her height, weight, etc.

Coarse Features, Bent Form

When Chauncey Black using the Herndon records described Lincoln's mother in the Lamon book he stated:

"Nancy Hanks . . . was a slender, symmetrical woman, of medium stature, a brunette, with dark hair, regular features, and soft, sparkling hazel eyes. Tenderly bred she might have been beautiful; but hard labor and hard usage bent her handsome form, and imparted an unnatural coarseness to her features long before the period of her death."

Brown Hair and Gray Eyes

Jesse Weik in the Herndon volume used the same source material as Black in the Lamon volume, and this is the result of the Herndon composite portrait:

"At the time of her marriage to Thomas Lincoln, Nancy was in her twenty-third year. She was about the ordinary height in stature, weighed about 130 pounds, was slenderly built, and much the appearance of one inclined to consumption. Her skin was dark, hair dark brown; eyes gray and small; forehead prominent; face sharp and angular, with a marked expression of melancholy which fixed itself in the memory of everyone who ever saw or knew her."

Dark Hair and Hazel Eyes

Mrs. Lincoln lived in Indiana less than two years before her death. The few scattered pioneers in a sparsely settled community who saw her occasionally, could not have had a very lasting picture of her impressed upon their minds after a lapse of nearly half a century. The following informant, Nat Grigsby, seems to present in his description a composite summary of those who claim to have remembered her.

"Mrs. Lincoln, the mother of Abraham, was a woman about five feet seven inches high. She had dark hair, light hazel eyes, complexion light and exceedingly fair. Those who knew her best with whom I have talked, say she was a woman of pale complexion, dark hair, sharp features, high forehead, bright keen gray or hazel eyes."

Herndon complained, "Nicolay and Hay have suppressed many facts . . . among them . . . the description of Nancy Hanks." Possibly it would have been just as well for posterity if Herndon had shown a little more discretion about releasing descriptions of Lincoln's mother based on questionable evidence.

Lincoln Could Hardly Recall His Mother, Washington Did Not Like His, Historians Say

By ALEXANDER R. GEORGE
(Associated Press Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON, May 13—(AP)—Five years ago 92-year-old Martha Truman flew to Washington from her home in Missouri to spend Mother's day with her son, the President of the United States.

The presidency had come suddenly to Harry Truman the preceding month. The visit of the little old lady, with whom much of his own amiable homespun manner spotlighted the relationship of mother and prominent son.

This relationship was further dramatized two years later. In the spring of 1947 Mr. Truman took his work with him to Missouri and kept a long watch at his mother's bedside during her last illness.

The mothers of America's two most famous men — Washington and Lincoln — lived and died long before this country thought of celebrating Mother's Day. Neither ever visited her son in the executive mansion.

Sentimental early-day writers gave Nancy Hanks Lincoln and Mary Ball Washington extravagant credit for their sons' successes.

There is scant historical evidence, however, that either Nancy Lincoln or Mary Washington had great influence, except possibly through heredity, in shaping the destinies of their sons. Actually very little is known about either woman.

Never Chummy

Nancy Lincoln may have hoped that her boy would go places, but she never knew he was on the road to greatness. She died at the age of 36 in a backwoods Indiana cabin when Abraham Lincoln was nine years old.

Mary Washington lived five months after her son became the first President.

George Washington apparently did not spend much time with his mother after he was 22. He was respectful and kind but never chummy with her.

Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, in his biography of Washington (Scribner), says:

"By the time George is 27 the reasons for his lack of warm affection for his mother began to appear.

"Although he believed that ample provision was made for her, she was constantly asking for something more. For a present from her half-brother to her daughter, for timber with which to erect a house, for butter and a servant from the frontier, for money whenever George came to visit her."

Information Lacking

Dr. Freeman says that "while Washington supplied his mother with what she asked if he possibly could, and tried to show some beauty and to yearn for better patience toward her, he did not wish to be with her and he seldom gave her his confidence if ever he did."

Authentic information about mental capacities and a zeal for

Voting Delay Protest Made

A letter protesting a statement from county commissioners that voting facilities will be adequate in the November election has been sent to the commission by Dr. William M. Cockrum.

Dr. Cockrum won the republican nomination to the state senate in the May 2 primary. He said, though, that he was not writing as a candidate but as a private citizen interested in the political health of the community.

The writer said he was not impressed by the commissioners' ability to foresee what will happen at elections. If they had that ability, he wrote, they should have been able to prevent the de-

lay that occurred in the primary. "We can conclude then, either that you are unable to foresee the size of the vote or you are reluctant to provide facilities so as to avoid delay," he asserted.

Since some voters are not able to wait an hour or more to exercise their right of franchise, commissioners must accept the duty of eliminating the wait, he said.

"Both on the local and national scene we face some of the greatest issues of our time," Dr. Cockrum wrote. "The solution of these issues is a matter of concern to all residents.

"The average citizen is voiceless except when he is in the voting booth," he continues. "In order that these solutions may represent the wishes of all the people, voting should be made as a convenient as possible."

Defense of Mother

Some students of Lincoln's life point out, however, that he had only hazy recollections of his mother and that the "angel" statement, if he made it, probably was one of conventional deference or defense of a mother who had been maligned by some of his political enemies who whispered that she was an illegitimate child.

The Civil war president was known to have been devoted to his stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln. She too was uneducated but kindly and shrewd, a good homemaker and insistent that Abe continue his education.

Nancy Lincoln is scarce. Legend has it that she told Bible stories to little Abe and sent him to country school with the admonition that he learn all he could about "writin', readin' and cipherin'."

She was remembered by neighbors as a sweet, melancholy

woman who lived in pioneer poverty and drudgery. She was uneducated but was said to appreciate certain things for her family.

Abraham Lincoln told his law partner, William Herndon, that he probably had inherited certain

COURIER AND PRESS—EVANSVILLE, INDIANA—

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1105

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 12, 1950

MR. & MRS. THOMAS LINCOLN—AT HOME

This issue of Lincoln Lore bears the date June 12, the anniversary day of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. It is evident that the young couple went almost immediately after the wedding in Washington County, Kentucky, to Elizabethtown, the county seat of the adjacent county of Hardin, where they were "at home" to their friends. On June 14, 1806, two days after the wedding, Thomas Lincoln acquired in the store of Bleakley & Montgomery at Elizabethtown these two items which were charged to his account: $\frac{1}{2}$ set knives and forks which cost him five shillings, and three skeins of silk at three pence.

It was a week before there was another item charged to Thomas Lincoln and it was but a spool of thread costing two pence, but on June 21 Thomas acquired: one shoe knife at one shilling six pence, and two skeins of thread at four pence.

This is all that is listed in the Bleakley & Montgomery day book charged against Thomas Lincoln between the wedding date and the first of July although many more purchases are recorded during the next few weeks.

The purpose of this issue of Lincoln Lore is to list some of the items which were sold in the Bleakley & Montgomery store during the year 1806 and which were available to the people of that community. While it is not likely that Thomas and Nancy were able to furnish their home with all these conveniences and probably Nancy could not have had all the ladies' finery listed, yet it does reveal the fact that Thomas and Nancy did not settle in a wilderness where there were Indians and wild animals lurking around their cabin door.

There are several corner cupboards extant which Thomas Lincoln is known to have built and he would most certainly have one for his own home. Most of the items of food, medicine and such dishes and silverware they acquired would be kept in a cupboard of his own creation.

While there were other stores at Elizabethtown where the Lincolns may have traded, Bleakley & Montgomery carried most of the things they would need. We have already discovered the purchase of knives and forks and the store also carried coffee mills, tea pots, sugar bowls, pitchers, tumblers, mugs, wine glasses, bowls, soup spoons, decanters, sifters, graters, and also wash bowls and tooth brushes.

A few pieces of miscellaneous household necessities might be found in some of the cabins as revealed by the day book: Japanese candlesticks, snuffers, lamps, scrub brushes, sweeping brushes, combs, flat irons, both dressing glass and looking glass are listed, as well as a carpet which cost ten shillings and six pence.

Some of the staple groceries purchased over the counter of Bleakley & Montgomery were flour, sugar, butter, coffee, Bohea and Hyson tea, chocolate, mustard, pepper, salt, cloves, cinnamon, ginger and allspice. It must be remembered that at the time of his marriage Thomas was operating a 240 acre farm not far from Elizabethtown so that Nancy Lincoln would not lack of the fresh meat and vegetables and fruit in their seasons.

Their medicine chest may have contained Godfrey's cordial, Batesman's drops, calomel, tartar emetic, spirit's of turpentine, peppermint, jalap, rhubarb, castor oil and head and throat tablets.

Of course more important from the viewpoint of the lady in the house was the stock of dry goods and it looks as if the variety of cloth was sufficient to satisfy all classes. Some of those listed included the ever present red flannel, swansdown, baize, muslin, satin, scarlet cloth, bombazine, dimity, bed tick, silk, nankeen, velvet, chintz, calico, linen, muslinette, cotton, and also Indian blankets and rose blankets. If any of the goods were to be dyed the following colors were available: indigo, fig blue and turkey red.

Notions were not neglected by Bleakley & Montgomery and they sold over their counter: ribbon, worsted tape, lace, beads, gilt buttons or white shirt buttons, sewing needles and knitting needles, thread by spool or skein, pins, beeswax, thimbles, and scissors.

Among the ready made items at the store were gloves of many kinds including silk, shawls of various materials such as camel's hair and cotton, hose of many prices of both cotton and worsted, handkerchiefs likewise of many varieties; bandana, madras, cotton, silk and muslin, as well as shoes, even silk gloves, fans and umbrellas.

The cabin home at Elizabethtown did not lack books as these titles are recorded as having been sold over the counter at Bleakley & Montgomery store: Bibles, primers, spelling books, Scott's *Lessons in Elocution*, Hymn and Psalm book, *Nocturnal Visit*, *Fair Sex*, as well as subscriptions for newspapers. For those with poor eyesight spectacles were available at four shillings and six pence and strange to say, a case to carry them in cost just the same price. Paper by the quire and ink holders were purchased as well as slates and slate pencils for the children.

No attempt has been made here to list the items which were available for the men and inasmuch as Thomas Lincoln was a carpenter it would be of interest at a later date to list the tools he was able to acquire in the community where he first set out as the head of the household following the trade of a cabinetmaker.

Of course we would not presume that at any time while living at Elizabethtown for almost two years and a half, Nancy Hanks Lincoln had been able to accumulate any considerable number of the items listed but many of them must have been in her cabin home. No store-keeper would stock a lot of merchandise that the average person would not purchase. All the items listed in the enumeration of household conveniences and wearing apparel actually passed over the counter of Bleakley & Montgomery at Elizabethtown, Kentucky in 1806, and the entries are copied from the original volume in possession of the Foundation.

Lincoln Birth Myth Dispelled By Dayton Family's Records

By HARRISON BEARDSLEY
Journal Herald Staff Writer

If Abraham Lincoln's ghost listed his friends and benefactors Dayton's George Head undoubtedly would rate a favored place among them.

Certainly the ghost would be grateful for Head's continual efforts to dispel the stigma and rumor of birthright which haunted the nation's beloved 16th president to his grave.

This Lincoln myth, that he was a babe born out of wedlock, still is cited by learned and scholarly authorities as proof of the great emancipator's humble beginnings.

Lincoln's ghost probably moans every time. For despite a harried and frantic search to prove his legitimate birth, Lincoln died without the records that would show the truth.

Today, however, Head fights the myth with photostats. And those photostats which are winning him friends among such prominent Lincoln scholars as Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic nominee for President.

The photostats were made of records in Washington county, Kentucky. They show that Lincoln's parents, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, were married three years before Abe was born.

Performed In 1806

They also disclose Head's intense interest in the matter. The ceremony was performed on June 12, 1806, in a log cabin at Harrodsburg, Ky., by a circuit-riding minister of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The minister was Head's great-grandfather, Rev. Jesse Head.

As Head explained it yesterday, his great-great-grandpa had ridden over to Harrodsburg on horseback from Springfield, Ky., 18 miles away in adjoining Washington county.

This helps to explain some of the confusion which later resulted.

For when the minister went back home after the ceremony he filed a record of the marriage in the courthouse at Springfield. The law required him to file the marriage record in his home county. Thus the marriage, which had been performed in Mercer county, was recorded in Washington county.

According to Head, "Lincoln made a secret trip back to Kentucky when some of his opponents started the rumor about his birth during a heated political campaign.

"Unfortunately Lincoln went to the wrong county. Instead of going to Washington county, or even Mercer county, he went to Hardin county where he had lived as a small child.

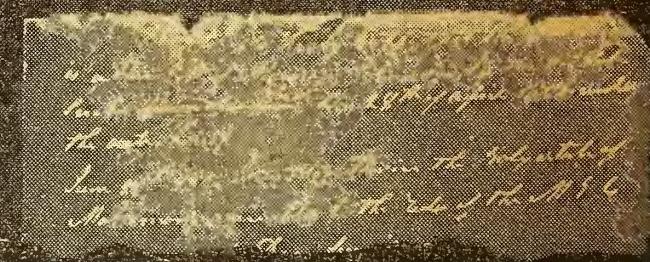
"This error is understandable. His mother died when he was about 10 years old. His father was dead. He knew the family had owned property in Hardin county so he just assumed that was where the marriage took place."

Lincoln never found the records. He went back to Illinois unable to

Dayton *Journal Herald*
FEB 13 1953

10

THE MINISTER'S MARRIAGE RETURNS



PHOTOSTAT OF RETURNS

Record in Washington County Court House at Springfield, Kentucky.

"Washington County, set
I do hereby certify that the following is a true list of marriages solemnized
me, the subscriber, since the 25th day of April, 1806, until the date hereof. J.
26, 1806, joined together in the holy state of matrimony, agreeable to the rites
the M. R. C. Morris Berry and Peggy Sims; November 27, 1806, David Mike
Hannah Peter; March 24, 1807, Charles Ridge and Anna Davis; March 24, 1807,
John Head and Sallie Clark; March 27, 1807, Benj. Clark and Polly Head; Jane
14, 1807, Edward Pile and Rosannah McManam; December 28, 1806, Silas Ch
berlain and Betsy West; June 17, 1806, John Springer and Elizabeth Innes
June 12, 1806, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks; September 28, 1806, John C.
and Hannah White; October 2, 1806, Anthony Lytle and Rosaria Prude; Octo
23rd, Aaron Hardin and Hannah E.; April 26, 1807, Daniel Payne and
Christiana Pierce; July 24th, 1806, Benj. Clark and Polly Clark; May, 1806, H
Huskins and Betsey Dyer; September 25th, 1806, John Graham and Catherine Jno
Given under my hand this 22nd day of April, 1807. "Jesse Head, D. R. E.

Old Record Shows Marriage

THIS PHOTOSTAT attests Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were wed June 12, 1806—some two and a half years before their son Abe, was born. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Jesse Head great-great-grandfather of George Head of Dayton.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

NUMBER 1348

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

FEBRUARY 7, 1955

NANCY HANKS, HER EARLY YEARS

While a newly born infant is the center of attraction in a nativity scene, the mother also merits some degree of attention. Usually a story relating to the child Abraham receives the emphasis in the *Lincoln Lore* bulletin issued preliminary to the anniversary of his natal day. However, it seems more appropriate this February to feature the early years of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother who gave him birth. While all Lincoln students should commend Irving Stone for his fair treatment of Lincoln's wife, it is to be regretted that he chose to defame Lincoln's mother. It is a strange use of sources indeed which prompted the author to completely reject Herndon's portrait of Mary Lincoln, but to accept Herndon's equally abusive characterization of Nancy Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln first introduces us to his mother in an autobiographical sketch in which he mentions the place of his father's birth and then with respect to his mother wrote: "She also was born in Virginia." In a letter to Samuel Haycraft of Elizabethtown, Lincoln wrote about the identity of his mother in these words: "Her maiden name was Nancy Hanks." The lack of direct information about the early life of Nancy makes it necessary to approach her early years indirectly through the relatives of her mother, Lucy Shipley Hanks, the widow of James Hanks. Lucy had four sisters: Rachel who married Richard Berry, Naomi who married Robert Mitchell, Ann who married David McCord, and Margratae who married first, Robert Sloan and second, Matthew Armstrong. All migrated to Kentucky except Matthew and Margratae Armstrong and their family. They remained in the Catawba River country in North Carolina where they all settled after leaving Virginia. Just when the widow Lucy Shipley Hanks and her daughter, Nancy, came to Kentucky is undetermined.

The story of the Kentucky migration of some of the cognate families has been preserved in these words: "In the fall of 1790, eight families, while emigrating from North Carolina to the inhospitable wilds of Kentucky were attacked by the Indians twenty-five or thirty miles southeast of Crab Orchard. Mrs. Naomi Mitchell, one of the party, was tomahawked in the fight and died soon afterwards from her wounds. . . . Her daughter, Sarah Mitchell, was taken prisoner at the time by the Indians and remained a prisoner for five years, until Wayne's treaty with the Indians in 1795 at Greenville, Ohio." A sad sequel to this story was the death by drowning of Robert Mitchell, father of Sarah, while searching for Sarah shortly after her disappearance.

A personal letter in the Durrett collection at the University of Chicago written contemporary with that early day makes possible documentary support for the story. It was written by Mary, widow of Robert Mitchell, to Isaac Shelby on May 1, 1793. Excerpts from this letter follow.

"My request is in behalf of my grandchild who was taken prisoner by the Indians in the wilderness last fall two years, her name is Sally S. Mitchell, daughter of Robert Mitchell, deceased. As you have frequent opportunity of writing Governor Blunt I beg of you to mention the matter to him as he once promised to use his best endeavor to gain intelligence of her. Request him to write to you whether he has ever found anything certain about her or where she is. . . . I am now old and very frail and cannot rest contented without trying every method in my power for her redemption from captivity. I hope you will assist me all you can which favor will be thankfully acknowledged by

Your most obet. and hum'l servant
Mary Mitchell."

Kentucky came into the union as a state in 1792 and Isaac Shelby was the first governor. Previous to his administration William Blount had been serving as governor of the territory south of the Ohio River. Whether or not Gov. Shelby was instrumental in having Sarah Shipley Mitchell returned we are unable to determine but his term of office did not expire until the fall of 1795. One tradition has it that Sarah Shipley Mitchell was released under the Anthony Wayne treaty with the Indians at Greenville, Ohio on Aug. 3, 1795 and at this time Gov. Shelby was still in office. One tradition claims that Sarah's name appeared in a list of prisoners held by the Indians and that she was brought back to her people by her brother. Most of the time she is said to have been held in Canada. When Sarah was captured in the fall of 1790 she was but eleven years old and by the time of her release in 1795 she would have been sixteen.

It will be recalled that when Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of the President, was massacred by the Indians in 1786 at Hughes Station, that his widow moved her family of five children to the Beech Fork community in Washington County, Ky. Less than a mile away was the home of Richard Berry, uncle of Nancy Hanks, and her guardian with whom she was living. We get the first glimpse of her through the reminiscence of Sarah Shipley Mitchell, who upon her release from captivity, came to live in this same household in 1795. Sarah was then sixteen years of age and if the entry in the Lincoln Bible is correct, Nancy was eleven at this time, five years younger than her cousin.

Many interesting traditions have come down through the descendants of Sarah Shipley Mitchell about her association with the cousin Nancy. One granddaughter of Sarah states that Sarah and Nancy "were as intimate as sisters." Still another relative claimed, "Sarah Mitchell and Nancy Hanks were first cousins, both orphans, and were reared and educated by their uncle Richard Berry. These two girls grew up together, attended the same church together, went to school together, and became known as sister-cousins."

Uncle Richard Berry in whose home they lived listed for taxation as early as 1792 two slaves, ten horses, thirty-four cattle. He passed away in 1798 and specifies certain negroes and horses to be left to his wife and children. This item is of special interest: "I leave to my beloved wife Rachel Berry the mare colt Pleasure, etc." There was named in the appraisal of this estate a negro woman Nan and another Hannah, both appraised at 60 pounds. Some of the named horses were: Blue Skin, Lofty, Rosy and Cherriot. Mordecai Lincoln, brother of Thomas, was one of the appraisers. It was the oldest son of Uncle Richard Berry named Richard, Jr., who signed the marriage bond of Nancy Hanks as her guardian and her bridesmaid was Sarah Mitchell Thompson, her girlhood associate and constant companion.

Sarah was married to John Thompson in 1800 and she named her first daughter Nancy after her cousin. Nancy Hanks married Thomas Lincoln in 1806 and named her first daughter Sarah, after her cousin Sarah Shipley Mitchell Thompson who was her bridesmaid. There was a large number of young people in the Beech Fork community and there were many intermarriages between the Berrys, Barlows, Mitchells, Lincolns, Brumfields and Thompsons. It is generally accepted that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks grew up together in the same neighborhood and were childhood sweethearts. The Richard Berry cabin in which they were married has been preserved at Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

Letters to The Editor

Slavery and After

Editor of *The Citizen*:

While others are writing about one of the greatest Presidents of the United States and a truly great American, may I interject a few words concerning him and other matters?

It is my well considered opinion that slavery of the Negro race in the United States was the act of God.

The Negroes in Africa were as wild as the wild animals in that country and the only way to get them out and into civilization was to catch them by force. Our poor efforts at Christianizing them in this generation is proof that we could not have done it in that generation. All the religious bodies in the world were neither ready nor willing to go to Africa and gather one shipload of Negroes and bring them to this country and educate and Christianize them. Involuntary servitude was the only method that could have been employed to get them into what was supposed to be the best and most cultured homes in the country.

Again, there was not on the earth a more ideal country or one more fitted for that proposition than here in our chivalric southland. God chose the most ideal country for this great project. In the main the slaves were well treated and they adored their masters and received their training gladly. Whatever may be said of the Negro today, you can't deny that he is deeply religious. But for slavery he would now be in Africa as ignorant as those now there. What is their condition here? No people ever grew and reached the position the Negro has in this country in the time that they have been here. Think of the school teachers, ministers, doctors, lawyers, and others that have grown up in this race of people in the short time they have been here.

Again in the providence of God, the time came for their liberation and freedom. That freedom was best for the Negro and also best for his masters. It is my opinion after years of thought and study that God again put in his hand. See how his plans grew—from what seems a poor foundation. A young woman in Rutherford County, North Carolina, was housemaid in the home of Abraham Enloe. Mr. Enloe moved from Rutherford County to what is now Swain County, North Carolina. This woman's name was Nancy Hanks. She still lived in Mr. Enloe's home. She became pregnant and when Abraham Enloe's wife learned of her condition, Abraham Enloe sent Nancy Hanks to his daughter in Kentucky. This fact was well-known by the neighbors, as good citizens as lived on the face of the earth. After the birth of her child she married a worthless character named Lincoln and her child took the name of her then husband, but she gave him the name of Abraham for his real father.

This man, Abraham Lincoln, has and will go down in history among

the greatest man of all time in these United States.

I have reached the conclusions above despite the fact that my father, his uncle and ten first cousins followed suit and volunteered and on one and the same day they went to war to sustain their Southern contention that the government had no right to deprive the people of their property—which was their Negro slaves. Hence I believe that I am capable of taking an impartial view of these facts. We are treating the Negro kindly—we are taxing ourselves to set him free and it is well for him and his white friends and benefactors to be patient and save the election of a country that put him in his present condition from further worry and vexation.

E. FRANK WATSON.

Burnett.

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN

Published Every Morning Except Sunday

The Asheville Citizen-Times Publishing Company
14 O. Henry Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina
Dial 5611

Robert Bunnelle, Publisher.

Don Shoemaker, Editor.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all local news printed in this newspaper as well as all AP dispatches.

Wednesday, March 2, 1955

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1418

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 11, 1956

THOMAS LINCOLN-NANCY HANKS NUPTIALS, DATE AND PLACE

Students of the Civil War period are already becoming anniversary conscious due to the centennial observances of important episodes in the life of Abraham Lincoln which will continue unabated for a decade. This atmosphere places us in a proper mood to recognize the sesquicentennial of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks which occurred on June 12, 1806, in Washington County, Kentucky. On the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the wedding of the parents of the President, the original cabin in which they were married was removed to Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Here it was enshrined in a beautiful structure, built in the form of a church which will protect the ancient cabin from the elements and other destructive forces.

Lincoln prepared an autobiographical sketch for John Locke Scripps in 1860 stating that Thomas Lincoln "having reached his twenty-eighth year, he married Nancy Hanks—mother of the present subject—in the year 1806." Campaign biographers in both 1860 and 1864 used this statement as the source of their information about the important wedding but no month, day or place for the nuptials was available. Early biographers of the President also adopted the 1806 year as set forth in the Scripps memorandum.

One of the campaign biographies of 1860 published by Follett, Foster and Company of Columbus, Ohio stated with reference to Thomas Lincoln "at twenty-eight he married Lucy Hanks and settled in Hardin County." Abraham Lincoln took occasion to correct this book and scratched out the name "Lucy" and replaced it with the correct name "Nancy".

The statement about the marriage of Lincoln's parents in 1806 and the implication at least that they were legally married was accepted generally until 1772, seven years after the President's death. Chauncy F. Black at this time, using as a source the William Herndon papers acquired by Ward H. Lamon, states in the biography bearing Lamon's name, that: "of the Nancy Hanks marriage there exists no evidence but that of mutual acknowledgment and cohabitation." This observation presents the earliest attempt to challenge the information on this subject submitted by Lincoln.

This comment about the marital status of Lincoln's parents appearing in the Lamon volume was one of the contributing factors which mitigated against the acceptance of the book by the public and the contemplated second volume never appeared. While a few subsequent biographies were less explicit about the wedding of Lincoln's parents because of this attack, the version as related by Lincoln in the autobiography for Scripps was most usually accepted.

This attack on the morals of Lincoln's parents and the veracity of the President himself, in stating that his parents were married in 1806, awakened relatives of Lincoln and students of his life to the necessity of discovering documentary sources for the Lincoln wedding story.

Robert Lincoln, the only surviving son of the President, immediately got busy and on July 26, 1873 John J. Nicolay then visiting with the president's son wrote to Kentucky about a wedding of a certain Nancy Hanks that took place in Hardin County. This inquiry proved fruitless as a mistake was made in the identity of this Nancy Hanks. She was married to a man named Levi Hall.

There appeared in the *Louisville Commercial* after the appearance of the Lamon book an article which supported the alleged common-law relationship of Lincoln's parents. This statement was observed by Mrs. Charlotte Spear Hobart Vawter whose grandmother, Sarah Shipley Mitchell, was a first cousin of Nancy Hanks. She wrote a letter which appeared in the *Louisville Courier* of February 20, 1874 in which she stated that she was teaching school in Springfield, Kentucky in 1860 when Lincoln was nominated for the presidency. At this time she visited a Mrs. Litsey who gave her a description of the wedding which she attended of the nominee's parents, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Mrs. Vawter then noted: "The official record of this marriage will probably be found in Springfield (Ky.)" Mrs. Vawter was in Springfield again in 1897 and stated in a letter now before the editor of *Lincoln Lore*: "I visited Kentucky and urged my uncle Mitchell Thompson to have the old court house searched for the papers. At a later date Thompson did go to Mr. Brooker, clerk of Washington County, Springfield the county seat, and have the search made which resulted in the finding of the papers."

However, as late as 1879 Charles G. Leland who published his biography of Abraham Lincoln in London at this time states that "in 1806 he (Thomas Lincoln) lived at Elizabethtown, Kentucky where in the same year and place he married Nancy Hanks: the exact date of the marriage is unknown." This is the first attempt of a biographer to locate the place where the parents were married but it is in error as the wedding did not take place at Elizabethtown.

The earliest author to announce the correct place of marriage and the name of the clergyman performing the ceremony was Isaac N. Arnold in his biography of Lincoln published in 1885. He stated "They were married by the Rev. Jesse Head a Methodist Clergyman, near Springfield, Kentucky." Arnold was misinformed about the date however, as he states they were married on September 23, 1806. This error was caused by copying from the list of marriages performed by Rev. Head, the marriage date of the couple following the names of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Several biographers made this same blunder.

When Nicolay and Hay prepared the first chapter of their ten volume monumental history, which first appeared in the *Century Magazine* for November 1886, they exhibited in print for the first time the marriage returns of Rev. Jesse Head which settled forever the controversy over the marriage of Lincoln's parents. The marriage bond issued two days earlier and acquired by the prospective bridegroom was also discovered. This document not only carried a signature of Thomas Lincoln but also of Richard Berry who signed as "guardian" of Nancy Hanks. Since the exhibit of the legal papers the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks which took place at Beechland, six miles north of Springfield in Washington County, Kentucky on June 12, 1806 has never been questioned.

Mrs. Vawter more than any one else was responsible for invalidating William Herndon's charge that Lincoln's parents lived together out of wedlock. Herndon also claimed that Nancy Hanks herself was an illegitimate child. If Lincoln students would accept Mrs. Vawter's clear and direct statement about the Shipley ancestry of Lincoln's mother, they would also discard just as readily the above accusation about the mother of Nancy Hanks.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1366

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 13, 1955

THE OTHER NANCY HANKS

Upon learning of Abraham Lincoln's nomination for the presidency people in Kentucky where he was born became interested in his paternity. Samuel Haycraft of Elizabethtown, under the impression that Lincoln was the son of Thomas Lincoln's second wife, the former widow Johnston who once lived there, wrote to the presidential candidate inquiring about his parents. Lincoln replied in part: "You are mistaken about my mother—her maiden name was Nancy Hanks." Papers confirming the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks in Washington County, Kentucky on June 12, 1806, one hundred and forty-nine years ago yesterday, had not been discovered in 1860, and it was many years after Lincoln's death that they came to light.

Not only was Samuel Haycraft misinformed but many other Kentuckians were mistaken about the identity of Lincoln's mother. Adding to the confusion, there was living in the same community at the time of Abraham Lincoln's birth another woman whose name before her marriage had been Nancy Hanks. It is "The Other Nancy Hanks," daughter of Joseph Hanks, who will occupy our attention in this bulletin.

The pioneer Joseph Hanks was in Kentucky as early as 1786 and on February 28, 1787 purchased 150 acres of land not far from where Thomas Lincoln was to settle in 1811 on Knob Creek. Joseph made a will on January 1, 1793 and died sometime between then and May 14 of that year when the will was probated. He named his living children Thomas, Joshua, William, Charles, Joseph, Elizabeth, Polly and Nancy and in the last bequest stated: "I give and bequeath to my wife Nanny all and singular my whole estate during her life, afterwards to be equally divided between all my children." There is no evidence available that would indicate he did not name all of his living children in this will, and they were to share equally in the division of the estate upon the death of the widow.

There is a well established family tradition that very soon after the death of Joseph Hanks in 1793 the widow returned to the old homestead in Virginia with her youngest son, named for his father. Apparently Nancy went to live with her sister Polly who had married Jesse Friend. On May 15, 1799 Nancy gave birth, out of wedlock, to a child named Dennis Friend Hanks, whose father was Charles Friend, brother of Polly's husband Jesse. Three years later Charles Friend, then twenty-eight years old was before the court charged with the paternity of Nancy Riley's child born Nov. 7, 1802 and on November 19, 1804 this same Charles Friend was married to Sarah Huss, daughter of Edward Huss.

William Hanks, brother of Nancy married Elizabeth Hall, whose brother Levi had a deformed foot. Levi was put under a peace bond signed by William Hanks as bondsman in August 1800 because George Lindsay feared Hall would burn his house or do him some private injury. Apparently it was about this time that Levi Hall married Nancy Hanks as the wedding took place a short time after the birth of Dennis.

It was the wedding of Levi Hall and Nancy Hanks, daughter of Joseph that was largely responsible for the confusion about the parentage of Lincoln and especially the character of Lincoln's mother. William Herndon in a letter to Ward H. Lamon suggested the probability of Lincoln's illegitimacy and stated that "Prentice (George D. Prentice, editor of *Louisville Journal*) got

up some evidence on the question in 1860 and the rumor reached here (Springfield, Ill.)"

Some years later, in 1873, Robert Lincoln at Chicago was to hear the same confused report of his father's parentage. John Nicolay who was then visiting with him tried to get some information about the wedding ceremonies. Even up to this time marriage papers of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln in Washington County, Kentucky had not been discovered and the official returns of the 1800 wedding of Levi Hall and Nancy Hanks in Hardin County performed by Rev. Alexander McDougal had not then appeared, and never have been found. Apparently McDougal was not very careful about reporting the weddings he solemnized as only nine of the forty-nine marriage returns he filed with the county clerk give the specific day of the month on which the marriage was performed. Apparently no report on the Hall-Hanks wedding was ever made.

The version of the wedding, with the name of the bridegroom changed to Lincoln, which was in circulation in 1860 and which Robert Lincoln heard about in 1873 was preserved by Mrs. Elizabeth Middleton, a daughter of Rev. McDougal who married Levi Hall and Nancy Hanks, daughter of Joseph, or as we have called her "the other Nancy," is here presented in part:

"Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married at a Mr. Todd's who at that time lived about three miles southeast of Hodgenville on the Little South Fork. . . . Nancy Hanks at that time was working for and living at Mr. Todd's and Thomas Lincoln was working for and living at Hodgen's Mill." The Todd home where the wedding took place was on a farm adjacent to the property of Jesse and Polly Hanks Friend.

Mrs. Middleton aside from being confused in the name of the groom also had the wrong Nancy Hanks for the bride. The young lady whom Thomas Lincoln was to make his wife six years later was then living in Washington County where she was married on June 12, 1806. But the unsavory reputation which had been associated with "the other Nancy" mother of Dennis Hanks was ascribed to Lincoln's mother.

The name of Levi Hall appears on the U. S. census report for Hardin County, Kentucky in 1810. It reveals that both Levi and his wife Nancy were between 26 and 45 years of age and that there were two boys under ten and two girls under ten already in their family. This supports the tradition of Dennis Hanks, who is listed with the Thomas Sparrow family, that his mother married Levi Hall shortly after his birth, at least she had borne Hall four children previous to 1810. By the time of the 1820 census was recorded their family had increased to four sons and four daughters.

Not only has "The Other Nancy" been confused with the mother of Lincoln in the wedding ceremonies but Nancy Hanks Hall is said to be interred by the side of Lincoln's mother in the burial lot in Indiana. Two sons of "The Other Nancy," Dennis Hanks and Squire Hall, married Elizabeth and Matilda Johnston, the two daughters of Lincoln's stepmother. According to Dennis, Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow and her husband were buried on one side of Lincoln's mother and Nancy Hanks Hall and her husband, about six years later were buried in the same cemetery lot on the other side of Nancy Lincoln. All five people are said to have died of a malady that was termed "milk sickness."

The Evansville Courier
NANCY LINCOLN

Aug. 7, 1936
(By J Roy in Paragraph in
Evansville Courier)

Editor Baker of The Grandview Monitor tells about a thin sheet of yellowed paper with old fashioned script dimmed by years being found by the WPA women workers who were renovating the court files in the Spencer county court house at Rockport. It looked like any of the hundreds of documents they have been indexing and putting in order. But in the left hand corner of one of the documents they have found something that made them gasp. It read "Nancy Lincoln, her mark." There, with a small x the mother of Abraham Lincoln had affixed her signature as witness to a will. It was the last testament of Thomas Sparrow, her uncle, who with his wife, Betsy Hanks Sparrow, had come to Spencer county from Kentucky in 1817, and made her home with the Lincolns.

They also brought with them, Dennis Hanks, Nancy's cousin, who was the beneficiary of the will, and who lived with the Lincolns many years. Shortly after the will was attested in September, 1818, Thomas Sparrow died a victim of the epidemic of "milk fever." His wife succumbed to the same disease shortly thereafter, and in the middle of October 1818 Nancy Lincoln died of the same malady. Editor Baker, who has delved deeply in Lincolnia says the finding of the will settles some points in Lincoln history. One of these is that Mrs. Lincoln could not write her own name. It is claimed that she could read and did read the Bible to her children. The fact she used her mark in witnessing her uncle's will undoubtedly sets at rest that she could not write, or she would have written her name on her uncle's will. It is undoubtedly true that her uncle could not write as he also signed by mark. It is also in evidence that Thomas Carter was a respected neighbor at the date of the will. How this record escaped fire that destroyed the court house in 1833 is a matter of conjecture.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site
Route #1, Hodgenville, Kentucky

May 16, 1961

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Doctor McMurtry:

We recently came into possession of a newspaper - Volume 1, No. 8, Bedford Bulletin-Democrat, Bedford, Virginia, April 20, 1961, in which we noted an article entitled -- 'Twas Liberty, Not Lynchburg; Some War Centennial Notes.

This article dealt with a feature in the Saturday Evening Post entitled "What's Going On Here?" The "Post" referred to the near lynching of Andrew Johnson. Our interest, however, is centered on a comment, within the feature story, concerning Abraham Lincoln which reads:

Lincoln and Bedford

"Mention of the martyred President brings to mind an obscure and almost forgotten link between him and Bedford County. Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, was born in what had recently been a part of this county."

"She was the only daughter of James and Lucy Hanks and was born February 5, 1784, on Hat Creek near Brookneal in Campbell County, which had been carved out of Bedford County only two years before."

"Nancy Hanks was a descendant of Thomas Hanks, who came from England to Virginia in 1644. She was married -----."

"The Hat Creek settlement was the first in the area now known as Campbell County. About 1742 a colony of Presbyterians from Pennsylvania settled in the Hat Creek area. John Irwin ventured into this wilderness, returned to Pennsylvania and persuaded others to follow him to the new site. A place of worship was built and named Hat Creek for the nearby stream." -----.

We believe you and Doctor Warren have perhaps already studied this Account, but I found no mention of it in Lincoln Lore Nos. 28 and 29, which dealt with Nancy Hanks' Birthplace. We are passing this information for what it may be worth.

With best regards,



Ernest L. Wright, Jr.
Superintendent

May 18, 1961

Mr. Ernest L. Wright, Jr., Supt.
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Natl. Historical Site
Route #1
Hodgenville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Wright:

I have your letter of May 16th.

I have not seen a copy of the newspaper Vol. 1, No. 8 Bedford Bulletin-Democrat, Bedford, Virginia.

I have read the excerpts you have incorporated into your letter about Nancy Hanks taken from that paper. I can report that in spite of this article the kinsmen of Nancy Hanks Lincoln are still unidentified. We can state that Nancy Hanks was born February 5, 1784 in that part of Virginia that now comprises the state of West Virginia. I do not think we can safely go beyond the above statement.

Do you have a file of the Lincoln Kisman? I enclose a photo-stat copy of issue No. 2, August, 1938.

Thanking you for your letter, I remain

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw
enc. 1

P.S. No significant discoveries have been made since Dr. Warren wrote Lincoln Lore 28 and 29.

Let's Make Nancy Hanks Legitimate

by Thomas Claggett

The Encyclopedia Britannica says it appears Abraham Lincoln's mother was an illegitimate child.

Why have not Lincoln's advocates in Elizabethtown contested this idea to the extent of demanding that this publication print a retraction?

President Lincoln has expressed his desire to devote much of his time in retirement to tracing his ancestry. His untimely assassination prevented this. He stated in a letter that "my mo'her was a woman by the name of Hanks." Her maiden name was Hanks, the daughter of a truly married couple whose name was Hanks. Nancy Hank's parents were very poor, as was almost everybody in those days. As a very young girl, Nancy was apportioned out to a related family who were more able financially to care for her than were her parents. She "went to live" with a family by the name of Sparrow. The family had two sons, of course, by the name of Sparrow. To eliminate questions and to preserve the name of Sparrow, Nancy Hanks became known as Nancy Sparrow. As gossip would have it, people who were not in possession of facts began to whisper that if Nancy was not a Sparrow, then she must be a woods colt.

Now-a-days it seems to be some sort of dubious honor to be illegitimate, what with "communes" and "families" born and raised in attics and out on the desert, and out of wedlock. Not so in Lincoln's days when children born out of wedlock were known as bastards, and with a stain upon themselves forever.

Subversive historians during the past 30 years have gone to great lengths to destroy the heritage of all great Americans. This is a segment of the Communist conspiracy.

Could it be that our 200-year-old Encyclopedia Britannica on page 45 of book 14 (1968 edition) was "conned" into believing that Nancy Hanks was illegitimate? Maybe such seemingly loose reporting by an encyclopedia that has trained the minds of Americans for the past 200 years should be publicly made.

Communist writers are experts in the use of "alleged," "it appears that," "some say" "it has been said," "we have been told," etc., etc. They use these ambiguous inserts so that they can crawl back under rocks to avoid being sued for libel, but Encyl-Brit. should not use such reasoning.

How about it, E'town Experts on Lincoln? Will you accept or reject the printed word of Encyclopedia Britannica?

Footnote: As Mark Twain said when he read a report of his death, "It was greatly exaggerated." So is the swill of bucket-mouther communist reports in their attempts to destroy the heritage of our American forefathers. The death penalty is needed to forestall these parasites. The penalty of death makes slimy froth run out the corners of their mouths, and they crawl back into manholes from whence they came.

"A congregation needs to be a fellowship of reconciliation-not just an exclusive club of Christians who enjoy being together." Richard C. Woodsome

December 28, 1979

COPY

Mr. Lloyd Shearer
1979 Parade Publication
750 Third Avenue
New York, New York, 10017

Dear Mr. Shearer:

On December 7th, 1979, I was reading the Personality Parade Column in the Parade Magazine. I was shocked to read that your publication could print something that was not true, as well as libelous because your source was only historians with no identification. The questions asked by P. S. Monore, North Carolina, were about Mrs. Churchill with a long answer and a short, weak and untrue answer for Nancy Hanks just swept off without, it looked to me, with haste and no research.

P. S. Monore wanted to know "Is it a fact that Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, was born illegitimate?" Parade's answer "As for Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, historians have long held that she was of illegitimate lineage."

I consider that a stupid reply for the whole lineage to be illegitimate without proof and research.

Nancy Hanks was not illegitimate. Enclosed please find xerox copies from the book Caroline Hanks Hitchcock C1899 New York, N.Y.

Continued --

Continued - Page 2

by Doubleday & McClure Co. 1900 entitled The Story of Abraham Lincoln's Mother and a preface of gratitude of I. M. T. saying "This book will, we believe, silence forever in the minds of the unprejudiced reader the painful doubts which have rested on the origin of Abraham Lincoln."

It shows that his mother was of English origin; that she came, like her husband (Thomas Lincoln) from a family whose men and women did not fear to cross a sea or penetrate a wilderness to win land and home; that she might bear an honest name and give an honest life to her son." I.M.T. Mrs. Hitchcock researched this line and proved by the facsimiles of Thomas Lincoln's Marriage Bond and Marriage Certificate of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, signed by Reverend Jesse Head. You will find this proof enclosed.

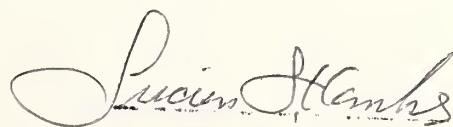
I have read that the scandal which was spread throughout the land was by Lincoln's opponents who hated Lincoln and evidently wanted Douglas for the presidency.

Your column has wickedly brought this untrue story out again. You owe the many Hanks' an apology.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Julia Hanks Mailer
2346 Chalet Gardens Rd/
Madison Wi 53711

OR



LUCIEN S. HANKS
115 W. DOTY ST. 255-0036
MADISON, WIS. 53703

Agreement by Richard & Nancy Lincoln and
Richard & Nancy and binded unto his
Sister the sum of \$1000.00 as a fine amount
of his former sum money now payment of which will
be paid to his Master to his said master and his Successor
to live on her said Master and his family
by these presents made with our seal and the 10th
day of June 1806. The condition of the above
agreement is that whereas it is agreed that
the master will pay to his son Thomas Lincoln and
Nancy Hanks for what aforesaid he said
money if this be no lawful cause to release his said
Master from his obligation to do so and to make it remain
in full force and effect in law
Witnessed in law
Richard M. Bennett
Richard M. Bennett

Facsimile of Thomas Lincoln's Marriage Bond.

it was from him that Thomas Lincoln is said to have imbibed many of his ideas on the slavery question. As required by the law of the time, Jesse Head returned the marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, as will be seen from an examination of the facsimile, page 63. He also gave to the new couple a marriage certificate (page 55) 63.

Thus the marriage between the two was duly recorded; but years afterwards, when the son of this union had become one of the greatest men of the country, his enemies, believing that his origin was humble, sought to make it dishonest as well. The story was spread that his father and mother

were never married, and it came to be generally believed. A mere accident led to its investigation. In 1882 Capt. J. W. Wartman, clerk of the United States Court at Evansville, Ind., was talking with a distinguished Kentucky citizen, Christopher Columbus Graham. Dr. Graham was born at Worthington's Station, near Danville, Ky., in 1784. He lived in the State until his death at Louisville in 1885. This long period was to the very end one of useful activity. A physician by profession, Dr. Graham was by his love of nature a botanist, geologist, and naturalist. His observations on the flora, fauna, and strata of Kentucky are quoted on

I do hereby certify that by authority of the
Circular Office from the Clerk's Office of Washington & I
here solemnized the Rites of Matrimony between
Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, June
12th 1806 & D. agreeable to the Rites and Ceremonies
of the Methodist Episcopal Church witness
my hand
John Head
12th 1806

63

64 Nancy Hanks

both sides of the Atlantic by scientists. For many years Dr. Graham was the owner of the famous Harrodsburg Springs. About 1852 he sold this property to the War Department of the United States as a retreat for invalid military officers. After the sale of the springs he spent most of his time in study and in arranging his fine cabinet of Kentucky geology and natural history before selling it to the Louisville Library Association. Naturally Dr. Graham had known in his lifetime most of the inhabitants of his State. In his conversation with Mr. Wartman he said that he was present at the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy

Nancy Hanks 65

Hanks. Mr. Wartman knew of the doubt which had been thrown upon this marriage, and realizing the historical importance of such a testimony, and thinking that it might lead to the discovery of documentary proofs of the marriage, he secured from Mr. Graham the following affidavit:

"I, Christopher C. Graham, now of Louisville, Ky., aged ninety-eight years, on my oath say: That I was present at the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, in Washington County, near the town of Springfield, Kentucky; that one Jesse Head, a Methodist preacher of Springfield, Kentucky, performed the ceremony. I knew the said

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks well, and know the said Nancy Hanks to have been virtuous and respectable, and of good parentage. I do not remember the exact date of the marriage, but was present at the marriage aforesaid; and I make this affidavit freely, and at the request of J. W. Wartman, to whom, for the first time, I have this day incidentally stated the fact of my presence at the said wedding of President Lincoln's father and mother. I make this affidavit to vindicate the character of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, and to put to rest forever the legitimacy of Abraham Lincoln's birth. I was formerly proprietor of Har-

rodsburg Springs, I am a retired physician, and am now a resident of Louisville, Kentucky. I think Felix Grundy was also present at the marriage of said Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, the father and mother of Abraham Lincoln. The said Jesse Head, the officiating minister at the marriage aforesaid, afterward removed to Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and edited a paper there, and died at that place.

"CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
GRAHAM.

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this March 20th, A.D. 1882.
N. C. Butler, Clerk United States Circuit Court, First District Indiana. By J. W. Wartman, Deputy Clerk."

Q. Is it a fact that Winston Churchill's wife, Clementine, was born illegitimate? Is it a fact that Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, was also born illegitimate? —P.S., Monroe, N.C.

A. In "A Pilgrimage of Passion," Elizabeth Longford, a British biographer of established reputation, writes that Lady Blanche Hozier, the mother of Clementine Churchill, confided during her lengthy love affair with Wilfred Blunt that at another time she had been unfaithful to her husband, Sir Henry Hozier, and that he was not the father of Clementine and her sister Katherine. Supposedly Lady Blanche's earlier lover—and father of both girls—was a socialite horseman named Bay Middleton.

Lady Longford says she told Mary Soames, Clementine Churchill's daughter, about this discovery before the latter completed her own biography of her mother, recently released, "but it was too late for inclusion in the book."

As for Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, historians have long held that she was of illegitimate lineage.

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parade
THE SUNDAY
NEWSPAPER
MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 9, 1979

Parade Dec 9 1979

Personality Parade

appealing and
Hanks
The only Baking
from Royal-Grape

LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

The Family Pedigree of the Hankses and Their Early Deeds.

(Des Moines Register.)

A friend requests me to give for publication (if I can do so) a sketch of the family of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln. She tells me she has read every history of Abraham Lincoln, and considers it very strange that nothing has ever been written by the historians of the President's mother, except that her name was Nancy Hanks.

The historians never made any effort to trace the pedigree of the family. Raymond, in his "Life and State Papers of Abraham Lincoln," declares nothing is known concerning her ancestry or early life. He merely mentions that she was a Virginian by birth. The name Hanks is rare in America, yet we have a straighter line on the pedigree of the Hankses than we have of the Lincolns. Beyond the grandfather of Abe Lincoln, we know absolutely nothing of the family pedigree.

The earliest account we have of the Hankses is their first appearance in Gloucester County, Va., in 1673. In deed book No. 6, Jan. grants, page 472, 1673, is recorded a grant of 200 acres to Thomas Hanks. And on page 476, same year, 1673, is recorded a patent to Thomas Hanks for 500 acres. In the early colonial history of Virginia, a person who paid for the passage of a person who came to settle in Virginia was entitled to a land grant of several hundred acres. This was why he was given a grant of land. The patent of 500 acres which is recorded was land paid for in cash or tobacco, which was the circulating medium in Virginia. In course of time, the family increased and emigrated westward. We next hear of them in Orange County, 140 miles west of Gloucester. Among the marriages recorded in Orange courthouse on March 26, 1803, is Rodney Hanks, son of Reuben and Elizabeth Hanks, to Alice Chandler. But they didn't stop at Orange courthouse. We find a family of them in Rockingham County, Va., in 1780, and another in Shenandoah County. In 1780 Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of President Lincoln, removed to Kentucky from Rockingham County, Va., and we are certain that the Hanks family was with the Lincolns during that journey. The next account we have of the Hankses is in 1806. In that year, in Kentucky, Thomas Lincoln (father of the President) married Nancy Hanks.

The next account of the Hankses was at the battle of Tippecanoe, in Indiana, November 7, 1811. We find the names of Peter and James Hanks. Peter was killed. He was a member of Captain Berry's company of militia from Kentucky. James belonged to a company of mounted riflemen and was from Kentucky. They may have been brothers, and if so, I am certain they were the brothers of Nancy Hanks. In six years after the battle of Tippecanoe, Thomas Lincoln removed from Kentucky to Indiana.

ANCIENT SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

(London Standard.)

There is no doubt that some rough form of surgery must have existed from very ancient times, but it is difficult to find

CC: M. Neely
 file: Museum
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
NEWS
—D. 136,409—
INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN AREA

FEB 12 1986

Who's the lady in Hanks photo?

Today is Abraham Lincoln's birthday, so I cannot tell a lie.

No, the no-lie guy was George Washington, wasn't it?

Anyway, committed as I am to truth for a day, I cannot state as a fact that Lillian Wright has an original picture of Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks.

Maybe she does.

Maybe she doesn't.

Regardless of what the facts indicate, I'm not about to say she doesn't, and break the heart of an 81-year-old widow.

But if Lillian Wright does have an authentic portrait of Nancy Hanks, she's got something very rare and very valuable.

She's got the only portrait of Abraham Lincoln's mother in existence.

"I'm a third-cousin to Abraham Lincoln, on his mother's side," said Mrs. Wright in the kitchen of her small home on the near-Westside.

The 3-by-5-inch color-tinted photograph on her linoleum table shows a handsome woman in a checkered dress, with a frilly bow around her neck. The woman's hair is drawn back from her forehead and parted in the middle.

A smaller copy of the same photograph was taped to a brown, brittle page pulled from a very old photo album. That picture's image has faded into a dull brown patina over the years.



David Mannweiler

Underneath the photo, someone has written in black ink, "Abe's mother."

"It's a shame those pictures weren't plainer. They didn't make them back then like they do today," Mrs. Wright said, drawing on a cigarette.

She's smoked for 65 years, she said, but never inhaled. "My doctor says I'm in better shape than he is," she boasted.

She said the photograph of Nancy Hanks "has been in our family for a long time. My mother, May Potter, had it. When she passed away, I took it." Mrs. Wright said.

The picture of Nancy Hanks was taken, she explained, right after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

Mrs. Wright has never had an expert check out the photograph.

"Usually I just keep them in a dresser drawer, or on my desk," she said. A bronze plaque with a bas-relief portrait of Lincoln hangs over the desk.

Childless, she has no idea what will happen to the photograph when she's gone.

At this point, I have a personal note for Mrs. Wright:

Ma'am, if you've read this far, please stop reading now. Keep your belief intact.

Mrs. Wright may think the woman in the photograph is Nancy Hanks but Mark Neely does not.

An expert on Lincoln, Neely is director of the Lincoln National Corporation's Lincoln Library and Museum, in Fort Wayne.

"What kind of picture is it? A photograph?" Neely asked.

"Well, there can't be a photograph. Nancy Hanks died before photography was introduced. And she was too poor to have her portrait painted."

"It is almost impossible for this to be a picture of Nancy Hanks."

He has history on his side.

Nancy Hanks died in October 1818.

Her son was assassinated in April 1865.

Daguerreotypes — the first photographs — weren't invented until 1839.

Recd. AUG., 1997

Mother of the President
Nancy Hanks Lincoln
1784-1818

by
Raymond Martin Bell
and
Christopher Challender Child
Putnam, Connecticut

1506 First Avenue North
Coralville, Iowa

1997

52241-105

HANKS

Joseph Hanks was born Dec 20-1725 in Richmond Co, Va. His father was John (under 21 in 1708), who died c1740. His mother was Catharine (m c1714) who died in 1779. Joseph was the administrator of her estate. Joseph m c1758 Ann Lee, daughter of William Lee 1704-1764. Their first child was Thomas b 1759 (pension application). The second was likely James b 1761. His name does not appear in any contemporary record. He is mentioned in one tradition.

Joseph lived in Richmond Co until the spring of 1782, when he went to Hampshire (now Mineral) Co, (W) Va. This was in Patterson Creek Valley. Thomas had gone ahead. He was there in 1780. Except for several months back to Richmond Co to collect his mother's legacy and to try to collect money due to him as overseer, Joseph lived in Hampshire Co, next to a William Lee, (Lee later went to Ky) until he went to Nelson Co, Ky.

Joseph gave a mortgage in Hampshire Mar 9-1784 (poved Nov 9). On Feb 28-1787 he bought land in Ky from John Lee, probably another brother-in-law. While in Hampshire, Joseph's youngest child, Nancy, was born in 1784. She has been confused with Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The will of Joseph was written Jan 8-1793 and probated May 14. Son, James, deceased, is not mentioned. Each of 5 sons got a horse. each of 3 daughters a heifer. The rest of the estate went to his wife.

In September 1780 Thomas Hanks was drafted in Hampshire Co in the Virginia militia. His pension application R4571 tells of his service. The pension of a fellow soldier, Sanford Carter W9377, gives the same information. They marched to Hillsborough, N C, where they joined the Southern army. They passed through or close to Campbell Co, Va. Here was a Hanks colony: A James Hanks bought land Mar 27-1780, a Thomas was taxed in 1782, an Abraham in 1783. These men - brothers - were cousins of Joseph Hanks.

In the month of March 1781 Thomas Hanks returned home. Carter says Feb 28-1781. On the way home they spent some time guarding Tory prisoners at Albemarle. In the winter of 1781-82 Thomas spent 2 months guarding prisoners at Winchester. Married in 1793 Thomas moved from Hampshire to Ross Co, Ohio in 1800. He died in 1834.

Now, did Thomas, 21, have a brother, James, 19, who was in service with him? They certainly saw their father's cousins, when

going or coming from North Carolina. Adjoining Campbell Co on the east is Charlotte Co. Here in 1780 lived Rachel Shipley Berry, wife of Richard. They were preparing to go to Ky. Their oldest daughter, 23, was married. There were 7 other children, 21 to 4.

Rachel's father, Robert Shipley, had left Charlotte Co in 1771, going to Mecklenberg Co, N C. By 1792 he was in Mercer Co, Ky. The youngest Shipley child was Lucy, born c1761.

About 1780 either she made a trip to Charlotte Co from N C to visit her oldest sister, Rachel Berry, or, possibly, she never went to N C and was raised by Rachel.

Somehow Lucy met and married James Hanks about 1781. A daughter, Nancy, was born Feb 5-1784. James died soon after. About 1787 Lucy and daughter, Nancy, went to Ky. They lived with the Berrys until Lucy was remarried in 1790. Nancy continued to live in Berry homes until her marriage in 1806 to Thomas Lincoln. Her guardian is listed as Richard Berry, Jr. Richard Sr had died in 1798.

In the Berry home Nancy lived with her cousin, Sarah Mitchell, 1781-1855, who was captured by Indians in 1790 near Crab Orchard, Ky. Her mother, Naomi Shipley Mitchell, 42, was killed. Sarah was released about 1795. She was married in 1800.

It is generally accepted that Joseph Hanks was the paternal grandfather of Nancy. John Hanks, grandson of Joseph, said that Nancy was his cousin. Dennis Hanks, another cousin, said that Nancy's mother was a Hanks. He thought she was sister of his mother. Actually, she was a sister-in-law. This makes Nancy's grandfathers Joseph Hanks and Robert Shipley. Most other Shipleys ended up in Ky. In the Mercer Co tax list Oct 23-1792 Robert Shipley is "exempted from further payment of county levies and taxes due to age and infirmity". He likely died not long after.

NOTE: In 1996 I published A Speculate Study trying to show that the grandfathers of Nancy Hanks were Joseph Hanks and Richard Berry. The newest Lincoln scholar, Christopher C Child, has convinced me that the maternal grandfather was Robert Shipley. (Data supplied by Tom Hill.) Many sources have been used and many persons have helped in this study. Some of the ideas cannot be documented.

- Joseph³ (John², William¹) Hanks b Dec 20-1725 North Farnham Parish, Richmond Co, Va d bef May 14-1793 Nelson Co, Ky m 1758 Ann Lee, dau of William Lee, b c1736 d aft May 14-1793 in Va - in Hampshire (now Mineral) Co, (W) Va 1782 - in Nelson Co 1787
1. Thomas b 1759 Richmond Co d 1834 Logan Co, Ohio m 1793 Elizabeth Ryan - in Hampshire Co 1780-1800 - to Ross Co, Ohio 1800 - see pension application R4571
 - a. Joseph b c1794 m Mar 30-1814 Margaret Alexander War of 1812 - 2 daughters
 - b. Peter b Mar 4-1796 d Jul 19-1883 Jackson Twp, Logan Co, Ohio m Rachel Hazen 1800-1869
Ch: Thomas, Smith, William, Rachel, Mariah, Simon, Elizabeth, John P
 - c. Absalom b 1800 d Mar 13-1872 Harmon Twp, Clark Co, Ohio m Nov 1-1824 Harriet Clymer
Ch: Elizabeth, Absalom, Mary, Susanna, George Washington, Rebecca Harriet, Joseph Clymer, Thomas J, William Henry, Sarah Jane, Isaac Turner, Martha, Austin Jerome, Salmida, Emily
 - d. Isaac b 1803 m Mar 29-1827 Margaret Rapholse (Raypole)
lived Ross Co, Ohio
 - e. William b c1805 m Jun 1-1826 Margaret Thompson
 - f. Sarah m Artemus Cunningham
 - g. Nancy b 1813 d Oct 13-1842 Scott Co, Ind - full cousin of Nancy Hanks Lincoln - m 1836 William Henry Ellinger 1810-1894
Ch: Joseph J 1837-1922, Sarah Jane (Christie) 1839-1925, Mary Elizabeth (Foster) 1841-1883, Nancy Ann (Keith) 1842-1936
 2. James b c1761 d c1785 Va m c1781 Lucy (dau of Robert) Shipley b c1761 d 1825 Mercer Co, Ky, m2 Apr 30-1790 Henry Sparrow 1765- (1840)
Ch: Nancy (Lincoln) 1784-1818
 3. Joshua b c1763 - in service 1787 - ? Madison Co, Ill

4. William b 1766 d c1852 Macon Co, Ill m Sep 12-1793
Elizabeth Hall - she m2 Caleb Hazel
 - a. Nancy b Jun 13-1794 d Feb 12-1873 m Wm Miller or Jacob Robbins
 - b. James b Jun 23-1795 d 1852 m Rebecca Atherton
 - c. William b c1799 d 1846 m Mary Quinn
 - d. John b Feb 9-1802 d Mar 11-1889 m Susan Malinda Wilson
 - e. Elizabeth m Jubal Meader or Reason Ray
 - f. Charles b Mar 7-1807 d 1860+ m Hannah Martin
 - g. Joseph b c1809 m Sarah Hunter
 - h. Celia b c1811
 - i. Lucinda b 1813 d 1890 m Thomas Douglas
 - j. Andrew Jackson b May 15-1815
 - k. Sarah m Brown Oct 23-1828
5. Elizabeth b Mar 4-1771 d 1818 Spencer Co, Ind m Oct 17-1796
Thomas Sparrow d 1818 - no children
6. Mary b c1773 d c1820 m Dec 10-1795 Jesse Friend - he m2 Oct 30-
a. Mary Harriet m Knowle Hatfield (1821 Mary Scott - Edgar Co, Ill
b. James
c. Jesse m1 Jun 10-1833 Mary Blackburn, m2 Nov 27-1840 Mary Warrick
7. Charles b c1777 - living 1793 - ?d youth
8. Joseph b 1781 d Apr 4-1856 Adams Co, Ill m Nov 10-1810
Mary Young d Jan 24-1872
 - a. Jacob Vertress b 1812 d 1894 Elizabeth Adams
 - b. Elizabeth b 1813 d 1839 m James Kirkpatrick - b Sep 26-1813
 - c. Susanna b Jan 15-1816
 - d. Nancy b Apr 2-1818 d 1890 m William Hosier
 - e. John Henry b Nov 22-1822 m Emma Atkison
 - f. Joseph b May 14-1825 m Martha Bartholomew
 - g. Mary Ann b Sep 23-1827 m William Hall
 - h. Amaltha b Aug 22-1830 m Henry Loper
 - i. Isabel b Mar 9-1833
 - j. Caroline b 1836 m James Hall
9. Nancy b 1784 d 1824 Spencer Co, Ind m 1801 Levi Hall
Ch: (Hanks) Dennis Friend 1799-1892 m 1821 Sarah Elizabeth Johnston
Ch: (Hall) William 1803-, Squire 1805-1851, Sarah 1807-, Lysia
1809-, Alfred 1812-, Joseph 1814-, Mahala 1817-,
Letitia 1819-

JOSEPH HANKS

1725 Dec 20 born North Farnham Parish, Richmond Co, Va
c1758 m Ann Lee, dau of Wm
1759 son Thomas born
1762 Dec 31 witness to contract
1773 road supervisor
1776 Sep 16 brother Alexander killed at Harlem Heights
1779 viewer for new road
Aug 2 adm of mother's estate
1781 overseer on plantation
1782 Jan 16 owed £ 29 for work as overseer
Apr 1 filed accounts in mother's estate
June taxed in Hampshire Co - William Lee neighbor
Oct, 11 whites " census
Dec 23 back in Richmond for mother's estate
1783 Apr 8 court case in Richmond
1784 Mar 9 gave mortgage in Hampshire
Nov 9 " acknowledged
1785 Apr 5 debt paid to his attorney
1787 Feb 28 bought 150 acres Nelson Co, Ky from John Lee
1793 Jan 8 will written
May 14 will proved

from Paul H Verduin

John Hanks, son of William, b c1690 d c1740 m 1714 Catharine
 b c1694 d 1779 Richmond Co, Va

Children baptized at North Farnham Parish, Richmond Co

1. William b 1715 Mar 9
2. Eleanor b 1717 Mar 18 m Dodson
3. Elizabeth b 1720 Oct 18 d 1788 m Richard Woolard
4. Sarah b 1723 Apr 7 dead 1782
5. Joseph b Dec 20-1725 d 1793 Ky (see elsewhere)
6. Catharine b Dec 20-1725 d infancy
7. John b 1728 May 4 d 1810+ Woodford Co, Ky
8. Thomas b 1732 Jul 11 m Elizabeth Lee
9. Alexander b Dec 2-1734 d Sep 16-1776 battle of Harlem Hts, NY

Nancy Hanks

1784 Feb 5 born in Va

c1787 to Aunt Rachel Berry in now Washington Co, Ky with mother Lucy - stayed in Berry homes until marriage - learned to spin and weave - Berry children 18 to 10

1787 Feb 28 grandfather Joseph Hanks bought land in Nelson Co

1789 Nov 24 Lucy Hanks in court

1790 Apr 30 Lucy m2 Henry Sparrow - Mercer Co, Ky

1790 from N C to Mercer Co came grandfather Robert Shipley, wife dead, with sons George & Edward and dau Ann McCord, dau Naomi Mitchell killed enroute by Indians

1791 Dec 29 cousin Jane Berry m

1792 bef Feb 28 uncle Robert Mitchell died

1792 Oct 23 grandfather Robert Shipley "aged & infirm"- d bef 1800

1793 bef May 14 grandfather Joseph Hanks died - widow to Va

1794 Oct 22 cousin Richard Berry Jr m

1795 cousin John Berry died

1795 cousin Sarah Mitchell released from captivity after 5 years came to live with Aunt Rachel Berry - lived with Nancy 5 yrs

1798 bef Dec 4 Uncle Richard Berry died

1799 Nov 25 cousin Francis Berry m

1800 Jan 17 cousin Sarah m John Thompson

1800 bef Jul 28 uncle Edward Shipley died

1804 Aunt Rachel Berry died - Nancy to home of Richard Berry Jr

1806 Jun 10 Nancy m Thomas Lincoln - Richard Berry Jr = guardian

Five Shipley Sisters

Rachel Berry the oldest went to Ky about 1781. Nancy Hanks lived with the Berrys from the time she got to Ky until marriage.

Lucy Sparrow the youngest m1 James Hanks, m2 Henry Sparrow. she went to Ky about 1787, with Nancy.

Naomi Mitchell was killed by Indians in 1790 enroute from N C to Ky. Her daughter Sarah was the mother of R M Thompson. In 1881 he said, "My mother (Sarah) was a Mitchell, a first cousin of Lincoln's mother. Their mothers were Shipleys from N C. My mother was captured when a girl in (the fall of) 1790 by the Indians 25 miles beyond Crab Orchard at Defeated Camp. My mother was carried into Canada and remained in captivity 5 years with the Pottawatamies."

Margaret Armstrong never left N C, living in Gaston Co. Her great-granddaughter said, Lincoln's grandmother was a Shipley and married a Hanks. Her daughter went to Ky and married a Lincoln.

Ann McCord. Her husband bought land near Boone's Fort in 1790. On their trip to Ky a cousin was stolen. A descendant said Lincoln was a 2nd cousin of Ann's granddaughter. "Lucy married James Hanks."

In 1790 Rachel and Lucy were in Ky. It appears that Robert Shipley Sr (not taxed 1792), George (witness 1791), Edward (taxed 1795), Naomi (killed by Indians) and Ann all went from N C to Ky in 1790. Margaret stayed in Gaston Co, N C - Robert Jr in Halifax, Va.

Dennis Hanks said his aunt Elizabeth, mother Nancy and Lucy were sisters - Lucy was Lincoln's grandmother. Lucy was a sister-in-law.

Amanda Pilcher in 1922 said her grandfather, Henry Sparrow Jr's half-sister, Nancy Hanks, was the mother of Lincoln. Henry Jr said he was a half-uncle of Lincoln.

Robert³ (Robert², Adam¹) Shipley b Oct 19-1713 Anne Arundel Co, Md d after Oct 23-1792 Mercer Co, Ky m c1733 Sarah Dorsey (?dau of Edward) b c1715 d bef Sep 25-1789 N C 1749 now Charlotte Co, Va - 1771 Mecklenburg Co, N C - to Ky c1790

1. Robert b c1734 d Halifax Co, Va c1810 - listed in tithe 1752 any one over 16) m Rachel Prewitt, dau of Michael and Elizabeth Simpkins
Ch: Nancy & others
2. Edward b c1736 d 1800 Mercer Co, Ky m by Dec 1758 Elizabeth in Mecklenburg Co, N C 1771-1789
Ch: Robert, Joseph, Nathaniel and others
3. Rachel b c1738 d 1804 Washington Co, Ky m c1756 Richard Berry, son of John, b c1725 d 1798 - Charlotte Co, Va to Ky c1781
Ch: Joanna (Brumfield), John 1759-1795, Sarah, Rachel (Pitman), Richard 1769-1843, Francis 1772-1835, Jane (Mitchell) 1774-1833, Edward 1777-1843
4. ? d young Oct 6
5. Ann b 1746 d 1828 m 1765 David McCord b 1744 d bef Jan 5-1818 Madison Co, Ky - to Ky 1790
Ch: William 1766-1824, Sarah (Campbell) 1768-, Robert 1770-1840, John 1773-1846, David 1781-1852, Ann (Elder) 1782-1855, James 1785-1873, Rosa (Elder) 1788-1812, Mary 1790-1836
6. Naomi b Apr 26-1748 d fall 1790 Ky m 1772 Robert Mitchell, son of Daniel & Mary, b Aug 22-1742 d bef Feb 28-1792 Mercer Co
Ch: John 1773-1833, Robert, Daniel, Sarah (Thompson) 1781-1855 captured by Indians 1790
7. Margaret b 1752 d My 27-29¹⁷⁸³ m 1773 Robert Sloan b 1750 d Jun 20-1780 in Revolution - m² Matthew Armstrong b 1762 d Jun 21-1838 Gaston Co, N C Ch: Margaret 1774-1843 m Isaac McKee 1770-1848 Ch: (Armstrong) Mary 1784-1807, John 1785-1820, Matthew 1787-, Andrew, George 1791-, Samuel 1793-, Naomi (Leeper) 1795-
8. George b c1756 d c1815 now Allen Co, Ky m May 5-1782 Elizabeth McCord - to Ky 1790
Ch: William 1783-, Martha (Ellison) 1785-, Robert 1787-, Elizabeth (Raglin), 1791-, Sarah (Prewitt) 1795-
9. Lucy b c1761 d 1825 Mercer Co, Ky (see next page)

9. Lucy b c1761 d 1825 Mercer Co, Ky m1 c1781 James Hanks,
son of Joseph Hanks and Ann Lee, b c1761 d c1785 Virginia
m2 Apr 30-1790 Henry Sparrow, son of James Wright Sparrow &
Mary, b Oct 9-1765 Mecklenburg Co, Va d after Sep 17-1840
likely Mercer Co - he m2 Jul 31-1827 Rhoda Johnston
Ch: (Hanks) Nancy (Lincoln) 1784-1818
Ch: (Sparrow) James 1792-, Elizabeth (Franklin) 1794-,
Margaret (Ingram) 1796-, Mary (Whitehouse) 1798-, Thomas
1800-, Henry 1802-1881, George 1804-, Lucinda (Campbell)
1806-

Robert Shipley, son of Adam, b c1684 Anne Arundel Co, Md d bef
May 9-1763 m 1710 Elizabeth Stevens, dau of Charles Stevens
Children baptized at Christ Church, Queen Charlotte Parish,
now Howard Co, Md

1. Charles b Mar 27-1711
2. Robert b Oct 19-1713 m Sarah Dorsey (see above)
3. Ruth b Aug 14-1715 m John Hood
4. Keturah b Nov 22-1717 m Upton Welsh
5. Elizabeth b Mar 7-1719 m Hames Goldborough
6. Sarah b Jun 3-1721 m Nicholas Gassoway
7. Lois b Jun 1-1723
8. George b Sep 20-1726
9. William b May 1-1729 d 1792 m Rebecca

ROBERT SHIPLEY

1713 Oct 9 born Queen Charlotte Parish, now Howard Co, Md
c1733 m Sarah Dorsey, dau of ?Edward
1745 Feb 25 land grant in Baltimore Co
1749 taxed Lunenburg, now Charlotte Co, Va
1750 name on military list with Richard Berry
1754 May 4 signs note
1755 May 31 buys goods
1756 Apr 19 "
1757 defendant in law suit
1760 "
1763 Aug 1 taxed with son Robert - Russell Parish
1765 Sep 16 patent 314 a n side of Little Falling River
1766 Feb 7 sells land
Mar 31 sells land in Balt Co
1767 Feb 7 sells 150 a of patent
1771 Apr 30 he and wife Sarah sell 164 a - to Mecklenburg Co, N C
1772 Apr 18 buys 185 a from David McCord
1789 Sep 25 Robert (wife dead) sells 185 a
1792 Oct 23 Mercer Co, Ky exempted from taxes due to age & infirmity
from Louis A Warren

COUNTIES

Hampshire

400

HANKS

Richmond

Albemarle

KY

Campbell
CharlotteBERRY
HalifaxVA
NC

(Hillsborough)

0 100 200
miles300
SHIPLEY

Gaston Mecklenburg

Index of Surnames
(except Hanks)

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Alexander 3	Hazel 4	Ray 4
Armstrong 7 8	Hazen 3	Robbins 4
Atherton 4	Hill 2	Ryan 3
Atkison 4	Hood 9	
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Clymer 3	Leeper 8	Warren 10
Cunningham 3	Lincoln 1 2 3 6 7 8	Warrick 4
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Crab Orchard KY 2 7
Defeated Camp KY 7
Edgar Co IL 4
Gaston Co NC 7 8 11
Halifax Co VA 7 8 11
Harlem Heights NY 5 6
Hampshire Co (W)VA 1 3 8 11
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Logan Co OH 3
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Madison Co KY 8
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